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No.438 February 13, 2011

ONLINE NEWS & SPORT: KENTNEWS.CO.UK | **CAMPAIGN:** KEEP KENT WORKING PAGES 32 and 73 | **FREE**

Tory MPs turn on KCC over 'wrong' care homes closure plan

JUDICIAL REVIEW LOOMS AS MINISTER REFUSES TO ACT

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

CONSERVATIVE MPs have railed against plans to close care homes for the elderly, branding them "very wrong" and demanding intervention from ministers.

And the Government has also revealed the controversial plans drawn up by Kent County Council could be dragged through the courts in a judicial review.

The latest developments in the fight against the closures came in a special House of Commons debate.

Last month KCC announced it was going ahead with plans to shut, rebuild or sell 11 of the homes it currently runs, despite more than 16,000 people voicing their opposition during a 19-week consultation.

The authority has since been reported to the Audit Commission over the way the decision-making process was handled, and two of Kent's Conservative MPs – Charlie Elphicke (Dover and Deal) and Gareth Johnson (Dartford) – attacked the Tory-run council during a Parliamentary debate.

They raised particular concerns about the four care homes due for closure – Ladesfield in Whitstable, Sampson Court in Deal, The Limes in Dartford, and Lawrence House in Folkestone.

Mr Elphicke said: "My constituent, whose mother has been at Sampson Court for four years, asked the

Continued on page two

Picture: DAVID PARRY / PA WIRE

KARREN BRADY BACKS OUR JOBS CAMPAIGN

For full story see inside

'Go slow' petrol protest planned

FUEL-price protestors could bring chaos to Kent's motorway system with a 'go-slow' demonstration.

Hundreds of drivers have been invited to join the demonstration that could bring the M2 and M25 grinding to a halt.

Campaigners will take their demonstration to two oil refineries in Essex to protest at the high forecourt costs that they claim are pricing ordinary motorists out of their cars.

They hope lorry drivers will join the event, increasing the prospect of gridlock.

Meanwhile, Kent's business leaders have demanded the Government introduce the fuel price stabiliser.

FULL STORY – PAGE 2

Show your love by tying the knot

IT'S Valentine's Day tomorrow, and the Church of England is hoping the impending Royal wedding will encourage more young lovers to tie the knot.

And it's not just the Church that's benefiting from Prince William and Kate Middleton's nuptials – wedding businesses in the county reveal they have received a welcome boost from an increase in wedding bookings since the Royal engagement was announced.

FULL STORY – PAGE 3

Spotlight on new cricket ground

KENT'S redevelopment of the St Lawrence Ground continues to take shape ahead of the new cricket season.

Kent on Sunday has gone behind the scenes and published the exclusive first photographs of the club's new floodlights, which will begin to be installed next week and could help to boost crowds.

Jamie Clifford, Kent's chief executive, also discusses how the project is progressing.

FULL STORY – SEE SPORT

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Health records privacy concern

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

PRIVACY campaigners have criticised a new NHS database which they claim will make sensitive health records available to hundreds of thousands of people.

Summary care records are designed to help clinicians access a patient's medical history quickly in an emergency and the system is being rolled out across the UK, including east Kent.

But critics say people are not being given enough information about the scheme and the database will actually be made available to a wide range of workers across the NHS, government and police. Ian Taylor – branch co-ordinator of the Dover No2ID organisation – has written to all MPs in east Kent asking them to publicly oppose the new system.

He said: "Letters are still being sent out across England but, contrary to the enclosed information, people not directly involved in your care will be able to access your record.

"Hundreds of thousands of people across the NHS will be able to read it, and Department of Health documents show that others – government officials, medical researchers, the police – can get access 'in the public interest' or 'by statute'.

"If people do nothing, miss the letter or fail to respond within the 12-week deadline, potentially highly sensitive medical information will be uploaded onto the system, never deleted and be accessible to hundreds of thousands of people."

Transferred

So far, 12 GPs' surgeries covered by NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent have transferred patient information onto summary care records, which contain details such as current prescriptions, allergies and reactions to medication. Medical professionals will still be able to access the records of people who choose to opt out of the scheme, but only by calling, faxing or emailing their GP.

Mr Taylor said: "Considering people with special medical needs probably already carry details on their person, and that the NHS has protocols in place for dealing with emergencies, it is questionable whether a central database is needed at all."

NEW DATABASE: But there are concerns about access to patients' NHS records

The medical records of about 120,000 people have already been uploaded to the new system in east Kent, which forms part of the NHS's £12.7 million National Programme for IT.

Walk-in centres and minor injury units in the area also have access to the information – as do two Pilgrims Hospices – with plans for a further six GPs' surgeries across Dover, Shepway and Ashford.

Mark Gray, deputy director of infrastructure and information governance at Eastern and Coastal Kent, said the NHS must respect a patient's confidentiality by law.

He added: "Healthcare staff can only access a summary care record if they have an NHS smartcard with a chip and individual passcode. This card governs what an individual can see and only allows them access to see the information they need to do their job.

"Staff must ask the patient for their permission to view the record every time they need to see it. The record may be accessed in an emergency – if the patient was unconscious for example – but this would generate an alert to the local organisation's privacy officer and would be investigated."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

*£29 fare applies to selected off -peak sailings before 12/12/11

Police funding cuts 'challenge'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

officer to attend an emergency call even if it comes under a different policing area.

And despite the planned job losses, the force says it intends to increase the number of neighbourhood officers from about 800 to 1,200.

Mr Gilmartin said: "It's very, very early days. The KPA agrees with the broad direction of the plan but now it's for the force to consult with partners, officers and staff to put some more flesh on the bones.

"There will be no immediate changes that the public will see, but the plan is to roll the new model out over the course of the next four years."

It was also announced during Wednesday's meeting that police community support officers (PCSOs) may soon be given additional powers to lighten the load on their professional colleagues. These powers may include dealing with truants, beggars, graffiti and the antisocial use of fireworks.

Mr Learmonth, who oversaw a similar restructure at his previous post in Norfolk, said frontline policing was a key part of the proposed new model.

"It has been an extremely challenging process and it won't be pain free," he added. "We are fundamentally redesigning the policing model for Kent by streamlining and rationalising support services, and re-aligning some of our specialist policing functions to continue to deliver a first class service."

Meanwhile, the KPA's members have approved this year's budget of £288m, which includes a freeze on the policing part of the council tax. The Government takes the first 2.5 per cent of any tax increase, and treasurer David Lewis said any increase above that would not represent good value for money for the taxpayer.

He added: "This is the biggest financial challenge we have faced for a generation. It's been difficult to achieve the savings while keeping performance at the current level.

"We are facing a 20 per cent reduction in our funding over the next four years, with the bulk of the cuts coming in the next two.

"The savings requirement for the first two years is about £25m combined, and then a further £20m for the two years after that. So that's already £45m before we take into account other adverse pressures."

One such pressure is likely to be the cost of helping to police the 2012 Olympics in London, with a steady stream of spectators and athletes due to travel from Kent throughout the course of the Games.

KPA vice-chairman Cllr Mike Hill said: "We do not know how much the Olympics are going to cost us yet, but it's going to be expensive."

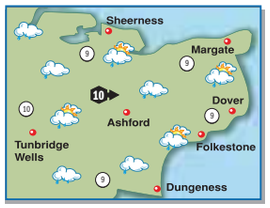
CHANGE: The new regions are three instead of six areas. Right, Mark Gilmartin says the changes will be gradual

KENT Police Authority has lashed out at claims by the National Policing Improvement Agency that forces have little to show for their collaboration work.

The county's constabulary has identified more than £11m savings through its partnership with Essex Police, with which it shares marine and helicopter services and more.

However, NPIA chief executive Nick Gargan claimed last week that police nationally "have little to show for four years of collaboration in terms of hard cash savings".

Weather



Today

It looks set to be mostly cloudy for a time with patchy light rain. However, during the course of the afternoon, it is expected to brighten up with sunny spells developing. Generally fine during the evening. There will be a light to moderate westerly wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

Sun & Moon

Sunrise	7.16am	Sunset	5.04pm	Lighting up times:	
Moonrise	10.31am	Moonset	2.37am	5.04pm to 7.14am	

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	04.14	5.4	16.58	5.2	05.36	5.2	18.30	5.1
Margate	05.15	4.0	17.56	3.8	06.24	3.8	19.23	3.8
St Mary's	10.20	4.2	23.02	4.2	11.52	4.1	–	–

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	rain	8	46	Edinburgh	cloudy	8	46	Newcastle	sun	8	46
Belfast	fair	7	45	Glasgow	cloudy	8	46	Norwich	fair	9	48
B'ham	fair	9	48	Isle of Man	fair	7	45	Oxford	fair	10	50
B'mouth	fair	10	50	Leeds	fair	8	46	Southsea	fair	10	50
Bristol	sun	9	48	London	fair	11	52	S'hampton	fair	10	50
Cardiff	fair	10	50	Liverpool	fair	9	48	Southport	fair	8	46
Cork	rain	9	48	Manchester	fair	9	48	Swansea	fair	9	48

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

- **EDITOR:** Ian Patel
- **ADDRESS:** Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS.
- **WEBSITE:** www.kentnews.co.uk
- **MOBILE WAP SERVICE:** www.kentnews.co.uk/mobile
- **TELEPHONE:** 01303 817100
- **ADVERSTISING:** 01303 817000
- **FAX (ADVERTISING):** 01303 817001
- **FAX (EDITORIAL):** 01303 817002
- **EMAIL:** EDITORIAL: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk ADVERTISING: sales@kosmedia.co.uk

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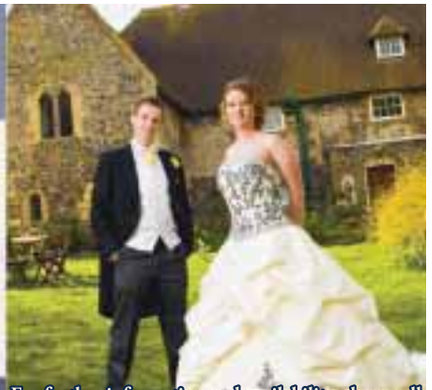

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Picture: MARK KINGSTON JONES

DOUBLE DATE: Clouded leopard Tai-Wada

Park lover to hit the spot

CLOUDED leopard Tai-Wada – a recent arrival at Howletts Wild Animal Park – will have more cause to celebrate than most on February 14.

Not only will the big cat be reaching its first birthday, it will also be his first Valentine's Day with mate Matsi, who will turn one in May.

Tai-Wada means 'angel' in Thai. The cubs arrived at Howletts, near Canterbury, in November, travelling 4,000 miles by air and road from the national zoo at Washington DC, in the United States. They have joined park's successful captive breeding programme for this vulnerable species and have been paired from an early age in the hope they will breed.

Head cat keeper Jim Vassie said: "We're delighted to welcome the cubs to the Howletts.

"It's very important that they bond and go on to breed and we are hoping Tai-Wada's special date of birth is a good sign.

"He'll probably get an extra birthday treat, but his favourite food – dead rats – won't be many people's choice of romantic meal."

Clouded leopards are in decline in Asia due to deforestation and hunting for their pelts.

The clouded leopard is especially difficult to breed in captivity and Howletts, with its sister park Port Lympne, is one of the few collections to have been successful.

Deputy carnivore keeper Ben Warren said: "These two leopards are incredibly important as they are a completely new genetic bloodline for us. This means we can breed viable leopards to be released into protected areas of their native lands when the day comes.

"Clouded leopards are hard to breed in captivity but now we seem to have perfected keeping pairs together. At Howletts, we have bred the most 'cloudies' in captivity in the UK – 47 in 10 years.'

The arrival is also particularly special to the Howletts carnivore team as the pair were hand-raised during infancy, meaning they are used to human contact.

To view, search 'seaways' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Ferry company Norfolkline is now DFDS Seaways. Julie Maddocks spoke to director Chris Newey about the transition

As Valentine's Day draws near, love is in the air across Kent

Where there's a Wills, there's a wedding day

By **GARETH ARNOLD**
gareth.arnold@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Church of England is hoping the Royal wedding will entice couples back to the altar and reverse declining marriage figures.

But did the announcement that Prince William and Kate Middleton will tie the knot on April 29 have any noticeable effect? Is a Royal wedding really what is needed to persuade those considering marriage to take the plunge?

The Church thinks so, with a revamped website that features the couple as the epitome of wedded bliss. So, with Valentine's Day approaching, we asked wedding venues across Kent if they had seen a rise in bookings.

Many have had a difficult time over the last two years as cash-strapped couples wait for more prosperous times.

But despite the difficult economic outlook, it seems there has been something of a regal resurgence in getting hitched.

Wedding co-ordinator Dawn Bosworth, who works at Knowlton Court, near Canterbury, said: "It was busy around November – that's when it really picked up.

"But now it's busy and it's stayed busy. We also changed our packages and started doing winter weddings. I've had two this year already, with another this month and two in March. This year I have only one date left for November and a couple in December."

The effect has even been confirmed by religious academics. Professor Roger Trigg, a director at the Centre for the Study of Religion in Public Life, said: "Marriage is a serious commitment and it's important that the Royal service has a sense of that seriousness.

"The problem is that people think of Prince Charles and what happened after his wedding. It's all very well setting an example, but it actually has to be a good example. It has consequences for society if a marriage like that fails."

And wedding venues are expecting another boost when the big day arrives in April.

Cornerstone

Rob Aspinall, of Lympne Castle, near Folkestone, said: "We saw a small increase when it was announced, but then it's just been business as usual. I guess people have forgotten now, until it happens.

"Then we might get another increase. We'll see once it gets into wedding season – it hasn't even warmed up yet."

It's not just the Church that would like to see marriage once again become a cornerstone of society. This week has been designated Marriage Week, a scheme launched by Conservative MP Iain Duncan Smith.

Last week he told the House of Commons: "Marriage is perhaps the best antidote to the celebrity, self-obsessed culture we live in, for it is about understanding that our true value is lastingly expressed through the lives of others we commit to."

UP THE AISLE: Kate Middleton and Prince William have started a wedding trend

Good clean fun

COUPLES have been urged to 'share the moment, not germs' this Valentine's Day as part of a campaign to encourage hand-washing.

NHS West Kent launched a poster campaign to coincide with the annual celebration of love to raise awareness about the spread of infections such as winter vomiting bug, flu, and MRSA.

Dr Declan O'Neill, director of public health improvement at the primary care trust, said: "It is still winter and the seasonal bugs have not gone away. Many infections are spread by hand contact.

"Regularly washing your hands with soap and warm water greatly reduces the risk of catching infections. This Valentine's Day we ask people to love their hands – keep them clean and keep germs at bay."

Playing Cupid

DIE-HARD romantics are being given the chance to declare their love to that special someone on the big screen London 2012 Live Site.

Dover Market Square's giant screen will become a 'love site' this Valentine's weekend, Saturday to Monday, February 12-14, from 10am-6pm. People can text, email or tweet declarations of love to BT, which will put messages on the screen.

BT's Suzi Williams said: "We're delighted to be playing Cupid, enabling people to send messages to loved ones via the Live Sites."

You can tweet messages to @BTLiveSites or email livesites@bt.com quoting Dover, or send a text to 82010 costing 25p plus the standard network fee.

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Science parks offer innovative remedy to county's drug giant closure headache

Task force given 30 days to offer site solutions

A TASK force set up by the Government to tackle the loss of Pfizer from Kent has been given 30 days to submit its first proposals for the future of the site. Business secretary Vince Cable will then consider the report's proposals for minimising the impact on the east Kent economy.

Mr Cable said the Sandwich economic development task force was working "quickly and decisively" to consider ideas for the site. The first meeting took place in Westminster on Wednesday, chaired by KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter and attended by Thanet MPs Roger Gale and Laura Sandys, and Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke.

Science minister David Willetts and Mr Cable were also present. Mr Willetts said the Government would work closely with the task force and offer every support.

"The priority must be to hold on to the highly skilled workers at Sandwich and ensure the world-class research there continues," he said.

Since last week's announcement that Pfizer was pulling out of its European R&D headquarters, putting at least 2,400 jobs at risk, suggestions for the site's future have been put forward.

The University of Kent expressed interest in using part of the site for a technology innovation centre, and Saga has been in contact with Pfizer about possible jobs for staff. The over-50s service provider, based in Folkestone and Thanet, also announced this week it planned to recruit up to 1,000 extra staff in Kent.

Expansion

The move forms part of expansion of its healthcare business in Folkestone, Hythe and Thanet.

The firm said it may need more buildings to accommodate growth, but would not comment on whether this would involve the Pfizer site.

At Wednesday's task force meeting, a plan examining issues that would help deal with the Pfizer loss was set out.

It will look at maximising job opportunities at the site and help those facing redundancy; consider activities encouraging partnerships between Pfizer and organisations that could relocate to the site; and look into site opportunities.

Cllr Carter said the main objective was to find as much quality employment as possible.

"Time is of the essence and we must explore every realistic opportunity," he said.

Pfizer's decision to pull out put 2,400 jobs at risk – the majority will be made redundant over the next 18 to 24 months – but the figure could be as high as 3,000 more, taking into account contracts with Pfizer, such as catering and cleaning.

The pharmaceutical giant has invested £240 million in R&D facilities in the last five years and the road to the site was recently upgraded to a dual carriageway, with phase two still under way.

Pfizer's senior vice-president and site head at Sandwich, Dr Ruth McKernan, said she welcomed assistance from the Government.

"Sandwich has an extremely talented workforce and excellent facilities," she said. "Our priority is to work together to explore external partnership opportunities in an effort to preserve jobs and activity on the site."

Reserve doubts

FEARS for the future of a Pfizer-owned nature reserve have been voiced after the firm's decision to pull out of Kent.

Monks Wall Nature Reserve in Sandwich, which stretches over 69 acres, is leased to Sandwich Town Council for free.

But conservation experts fear for its future when Pfizer leaves the county.

Before the agreement between the company and the town council the reserve was just a field. Since then it has become popular with bird-watchers, and educational visits regularly take place.

Warden Dr Martin Griffiths said: "Lots of people come to see the wildfowl, butterflies and damsel flies. It would be a great shame if this was all lost," he said.

EXCLUSIVE

By GARETH ARNOLD
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Hi-tech future out of Pfizer disaster

KENT could become the national centre for innovation in science and technology.

As politicians and industry bosses ask what next for the Pfizer site, the county's expanding technology industry is set to play a key role in the regeneration of deprived areas of Kent.

KCC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, Cllr Kevin Lynes, said: "We have been doing a huge amount of work with regeneration and looking at bringing in new technology, green technology and other new industries, trying to make Kent the kind of place these companies will want to come to.

"I'm trying to attract people like London Array, who have the largest off-shore wind-farm in Europe off the Kent coast."

A Sandwich economic development task force has been formed to shape the future of the Pfizer site, and one of the suggestions being considered is turning the facility into a science and technology park.

Other industry bosses welcomed the potential benefits another science park could bring to the county.

James Speck, director of Kent Science Park near Sittingbourne, said: "The situation at Pfizer is complex and like everybody else we want a solution that keeps the talent and jobs in Sandwich.

"We welcome [a science park] because it can only serve to strengthen the profile of Kent being a location for hi-tech businesses. It would help to fill the void left by Pfizer while creating opportunities for companies in Kent to collaborate and prosper. The important thing to focus on is keeping the jobs in Kent.

LONG VIEW: Kent Science Park in Swale

"We must do everything we can to avoid losing the talent, the jobs or the business opportunities.

"It's a question of what Pfizer ends up doing with the site. If Pfizer close the facility and there are scientists who are able to spin out their expertise by setting up a business in Kent, then KSP has business support services and range of specialist labs – once occupied by Pfizer – immediately available.

"This would mean far less disruption to the families of Pfizer employees."

Mr Speck's opinions were echoed by other hi-tech business centres which hope Kent could also attract European firms.

Karen Williams, assistant manager of Canterbury Innovation Centre, said: "We wouldn't see it as competition in any way.

"Anything that attracts more technology and science business and jobs to Kent is a good thing.

"Another large site would help attract more business from other parts of the country – even international businesses. We are always building links with France, Belgium, Germany. Another science park would only strengthen that. It's a massive site with amazing facilities. In the right hands it could become a really attractive location for technology and science businesses."

But the county faces stiff competition. Regions in the north of England were provided with cash to woo big business under the Labour's Assisted Area Status scheme.

This allows them to offer tax breaks and golden hellos to encourage big players to locate.

Cllr Lynes said: "It's difficult to compete with areas like Humberside and parts of Scotland that have had heavy industry and have steel presses and other things in place.

"We cannot offer the incentives that some areas provide. But that could change. We are trying to level the playing field.

"We are lobbying the Government for a fairer system – parts of Kent are just as deprived as anywhere up north."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

To view, search 'careers' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Shepway careers fair gave pupils and students a window into the world of work

Wedding party

ROYAL wedding street parties were given a boost after Kent County Council agreed to waive its charges.

Private parties for residents in quiet roads and cul-de-sacs will not be subject to charges – although forms still need to be completed. Final date for applications is April 15. The deadline for full closure for bus and through routes is March 4.

Prince William and Kate Middleton will wed at Westminster Abbey on April 29 – a bank holiday.

THREE Kent Lib Dem councillors are among 88 key members of the party who have criticised the scale and pace of Coalition cuts.

In a letter to the Times, they say cuts will have "an undoubted impact on all front-line council services, including care services to the vulnerable". They also accuse ministers of denigrating councils in the media.

Alex Perkins, Canterbury; David Neve, Tunbridge Wells; and Roger Walshe, Sevenoaks, were the Kent councillors those who put their names to the letter.

Public Information Days
Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm Proposed Extension

Vattenfall, a leading European energy company, would like to extend its Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm (also known as the Whitstable or Herne Bay Wind Farm) with up to 17 wind turbines beside the current 30.

Come along to one of the public information days shown below. There will be information displays, key staff to answer questions and the opportunity for you to register your comments.

Wednesday 23 February
2pm - 8pm
Kings Hall
Beacon Hill
Herne Bay

Thursday 24 February
2pm - 8pm
Whitstable Castle
Tower Hill
Whitstable

For further information:
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Call: 0 7545 339 299
Post: Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB

VATTENFALL

THE INTERVIEW

BY JENNA PUDELEK

Living with a broken heart

AFTER surviving two heart attacks, Jackie Agombar has returned to work full time, but she is determined to raise awareness about the need for vital research into heart failure.

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) has launched a major fundraising programme to mark its 50th anniversary and find a cure through regenerative medicine for the condition, which affects more than 750,000 people nationally.

Mrs Agombar, now 61, who works at a car dealership in the North Farm industrial estate, Tunbridge Wells, had a coronary stent or artificial tube fitted during her early 50s after a series of chest pains.

At 54, she had a heart attack because the stent split after being fitted to a blocked artery. The pain woke her and she said she felt quite "clear and calm" as she dialled 999.

Mrs Agombar went on to have a second heart attack about 18 months later, in more alarming circumstances.

She said: "I was driving to work, and I think this is why people should be aware. I did have severe pain and I knew it was not right.

Recovery

"But my instinct told me to keep going, so I got on the A21 and had another 20 minutes to get to where I was working in Sevenoaks at the time. I got there and they called an ambulance and it was heart attack pain."

Mrs Agombar has been lucky and made a full recovery. Although she was not overweight or a smoker, she has a family history of heart disease. But it has made her determined to look after her health and make sure she eats healthily and exercises.

But the damage caused to the heart during an attack means that it can no longer pump properly. It is one of the UK's leading causes of disability, with some patients left housebound and fighting for breath.

More people are now surviving heart attacks, and in Kent, BHF figures show the number of people dying of heart disease has fallen from 3,905 in 1994 to 2,336 in 2008.

Figures for Tunbridge Wells show a decrease of nearly 60 per cent from 268 deaths to 115 over the same period. In Sevenoaks, deaths from heart disease have fallen 44 per cent, from 236 to 131, and in Tonbridge and Malling 41 per cent, from 237 to 138.

BHF's Mending Broken Hearts project aims to find a cure for people living with the condition.

Mrs Agombar added: "My mum had heart failure and my father had cardiovascular disease. I'm sharing my story to promote the BHF's work and get more money for research.

"My mum is 87, and it would be great if someone could help people like her. I've watched her suffer quite badly. My father died 10 years ago, but he had been a smoker."

RAISING AWARENESS: Jackie Agombar

THE BHF's Mending Broken Hearts project will involve stem cell research and developmental biology to work out how to repair or replace damaged heart muscle.

Tunbridge Wells became the charity's first 'heart town' in the South East last week as part of the fundraising campaign for the project and to raise awareness about heart disease.

Part of the inspiration for the research is that regeneration already occurs in nature. Some animals such as zebrafish can re-grow portions of their own hearts. This could soon be possible in people too.

Professor Peter Weissberg, medical director at the BHF, said: "Since the BHF's inception 50 years ago, we've made great strides to better diagnose and treat heart problems.

"But the biggest issue that still eludes us is how to help people once their heart has been damaged by a heart attack.

British Heart Foundation — Mending broken hearts appeal

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Obese patients put a strain on ambulances

Thousands spent to cope with the overweight

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

OVERWEIGHT patients are being carted off to hospital in specially adapted ambulances equipped to carry wider and heavier loads.

South East Coast Ambulance Service has spent £12,000 of taxpayers' money converting two of its vehicles to accommodate fat people, reflecting the increasing burden obesity places on society.

The refits are in addition to standard trolleys and stair chairs found on all the trust's existing ambulances, which can already carry patients weighing up to 50st and 35st respectively.

"Just like the rest of the NHS, ambulance services have to deal with the fact patients are getting larger," said Jo Webber, director of the national Ambulance Service Network.

"Trusts need to be able to respond immediately to what could be life-threatening situations.

"Buying special equipment to meet this need is an essential part of providing quality care for patients.

"Nevertheless, focusing on prevention and working with the rest of the NHS to encourage people to make healthy choices is the only way to address these issues in the long term."

BIGGER: Our ambulance service is having to convert vehicles to accommodate larger patients

According to the Department of Health, the total NHS cost of diseases related to being overweight and obese in the UK is set to reach £22.9 billion by 2050.

Obese and overweight patients cost the NHS in Kent more than £564 million in 2007 – and that is expected to increase by £62m every year to 2015.

Despite the new equipment, paramedics still had no choice but to ask for help in removing a 30st man from his Dartford home last Monday.

About 15 firefighters spent more than two hours removing the patient from his house, before heaving him into the back of one of the specially-modified vehicles.

A spokeswoman for the ambulance trust said she could not discuss the nature of the call-out due to patient confidentiality.

She added: "The trust is committed to treating and caring for patients in a way that is most appropriate to their need. Therefore based on the needs of our community, the trust operates two vehicles in its region which have been specially adapted to transport larger patients.

"The cost of converting the former patient transport vehicles was £2,000 each and the specially-adapted stretchers cost an additional £4,000 each, compared to the standard stretcher found on the trust's vehicles, which cost £7,250 each."

According to a BBC investigation, every ambulance service in the UK has started purchasing specialist equipment to accommodate overweight patients.

One trust – South Central – has spent more than £1m in the last three years to upgrade nearly two-thirds of its 180-strong fleet.

FORMER That's Life! presenter Esther Rantzen is to visit a support charity for refugees in Dover's detention centre. She will meet representatives from the Dover Detainee Visitor Group on Wednesday, April 6. Rantzen will also have a briefing about ongoing projects at the charity.

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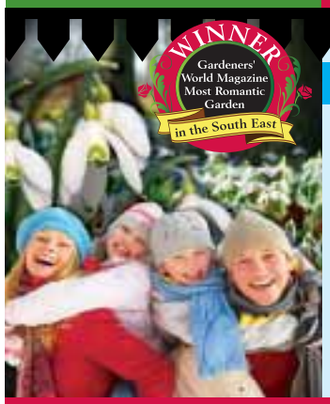

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Pupils to be quizzed over poor primary school exam results

TEACHERS, parents and even the pupils themselves may be asked to help explain why Kent's primary schools are continuing to under-perform.

Progress in the county's Key Stage 2 Sats results have been below the national average for years, with 17 per cent of schools currently failing to achieve the 55 per cent floor target of pupils achieving level four and above in English and maths combined.

Members of Kent County Council's attainment select committee will be holding a year-long review into the issue and have revealed they could take evidence from children in an attempt to get to the root of the problem.

Deprived

Teachers, governors, academics and council officers may also be asked to contribute. The select committee is chaired by the council's former cabinet member for education, Cllr Chris Wells.

He said: "We have pockets of deprivation in Kent and people tend to think the two are linked. While that's generally true, it's not always the case.

"There must be other factors that come into it, such as the effect a change in leadership might have on a school."

Introduced in 1995, the KS2 Sats – officially National Curriculum tests – are taken by pupils in their final year of primary education.

The results of the multiple-choice exams have a large influence on where a school finishes in official league tables, which some unions say leads to children spending too much time learning how to tackle them and not enough on other subjects.

As a result, 24 primaries out of more than 400 in Kent took part in a national boycott last May. Cllr Wells said there were many possible reasons as to why some pupils perform better at KS2 than others.

He said: "Most children have a good idea of what direction they are heading in before they even take their Sats, so it can be very hard to motivate them.

"You also have to consider those children who do not eat breakfast or do not do their homework, as well as looked-after children who tend to do less well in school.

"In a class of 30 pupils it can only take two or three to drag the results down. What we may find in particular schools is that a combination of these issues is affecting their performance."

The select committee is due to publish its report, a list of recommendations, in December.

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Advertisement feature

Down with damp

Holland Damp Proofing dries out your home and is guaranteed to work

By Katie Holden

DAMP is a creeping menace that affects thousands of homes across Kent.

It rots woodwork and carpets, peels wallpaper and causes fungus and mould growth on walls.

During the cold, wet months damp can wreak havoc in your home and on your health. Treating your property for damp now will help to keep you warm and dry at this time of year. You could also save money because dry walls are better insulators, and a damp free home will feel more comfortable.

It is important to tackle the problem because ignoring damp can store up serious problems and also pose potential health risks – especially if you have a medical condition such as asthma or rheumatism.

For years, people have tried to solve damp problems, applying waterproof coatings or injecting walls with chemical solutions.

This can involve contractors coming into your home and drilling into brickwork to pump chemicals into the walls – hacking off and replacing plaster inside.

EXPERT OPINION: Evert de Graaf with one of the damp-regulating bricks that have already been installed in thousands of UK homes.

The work can be messy, intrusive and your home will need redecorating once it's been done.

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ARTHUR KENDALL wasn't prepared to put up with mess and disruption when he looked into having a damp proof course fitted. So he contacted Holland Damp Proofing, whose method of installation is mess-free, eco-friendly and is guaranteed for 20 years. Within a day the company's engineers had fitted a damp proof course.

The work took place 10 years ago and the damp hasn't returned. "It's not a problem anymore," says great-grandfather Arthur, 82.

"I must have been one of the first of Holland's customers and they did a great job. They got rid of my damp problem and it didn't come back. That's a good enough recommendation for me."

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By GARETH ARNOLD
gareth.arnold@kosmedia.co.uk

College jobs at risk after campus scheme crashes

MORE than 80 staff at Thanet College are at risk of redundancy due to the last-minute scrapping of the multi-million pound Building Colleges for the Future scheme.

The collapse of the programme left many further education centres out of pocket, and principal Graham Razey says Thanet College must now find £1.9 million of savings.

Before the funding fiasco, the college was in good financial health, having built up reserves to fund an ambitious project to move to a new campus alongside the university in Broadstairs.

The Government promised to meet much of the bill, and the project was at an advanced stage, with the college having already sunk £3.2m into preparation costs.

But then the plug was pulled, and all the investment came to nothing. Other colleges in a similar position have taken legal action against the Government, but a test case by Grimsby College failed at the end of 2010.

Mr Razey explained: "If it had been successful, then obviously that would have been something we could have explored, but unfortunately its failure means there is no hope left of getting the money back.

"We know what we are left with, and now we have to face the challenges."

So far, more than 80 staff have been placed at risk, and about 30 are expected to lose their jobs over the next six months.

NOT TO BE: The design for what would have been Thanet College's modern new home

But Mr Razey has promised that frontline staff will not be affected, with the aim of maintaining the college's high standard of teaching.

He said: "At risk are management, support staff, facilities and IT, all backroom stuff. The teaching staff won't be affected."

Kent County Council is taking legal action to win compensation over the collapse of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Kent taxpayers face a £10 million bill caused by the scrapping of the scheme.

The council is faced with liabilities, where it must pay building contractors millions in aborted fees due to the cancellation of advanced stages of work on some of the schools.

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Keeping history

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A LANDMARK operation against heritage crime has been launched in a bid to stop Kent's history from being wiped out.

In a groundbreaking move by English Heritage working with police, local authorities and communities, a prevention strategy – the first of its kind in England – has been developed to protect historic sites.

It was launched this week at Dover's Western Heights, one of Britain's most important fortifications, which has suffered repeated acts of vandalism over the years, including arson and graffiti.

Shocking figures show crime and anti-social behaviour is on the rise at Kent's cultural sites, with graffiti, illegal metal detecting and lead theft from sacred buildings among the many offences.

In just six months last year some 500 cases of stolen metal were reported, with a large portion taken from the county's churches.

One of the world's first brick-built viaducts, in Folkestone, was also covered in graffiti by vandals – and the damage is irreversible.

Since 2007, £23 million has been paid out nationwide by church insurer Ecclesiastical Insurance, prompting the company to introduce a £5,000 limit for replacement metal and damage costs.

Chief Insp Mark Harrison, who has been seconded from Kent Police to act as policing advisor for English Heritage, said although in some cases there were monetary losses, the irreplaceable loss of archaeological treasures was the most damaging.

"Seventy per cent of the English population – that's about 28 million people – visited a

Tell us how to improve

AN INFLUENTIAL councillor has called on the public to stand up to people like him to ensure County Hall is tackling the issues that really matter.

Cllr Eric Hotson is chairman of Kent County Council's scrutiny board, and admits the authority needs to have a closer relationship with the communities it serves.

As a result, the Conservative veteran is urging readers of this newspaper to contact KCC with thoughts, suggestions and comments on how the various scrutiny committees can best hold the cabinet to account. Email overviewandscrutiny@kent.gov.uk to do so.

Cllr Eric Hotson

"I think historically no-one has shown any great interest in scrutiny, perhaps because we've not publicised it well enough," said Cllr Hotson.

"But we've got the age-old problem that if you ask Mrs Brown in the High Street, she will

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safe from crime

historic site last year," he said. "People have a connection with the history of England."

In the next 12 months, the heritage crime initiative will focus on the prevention and detection of four main types of offence; damage caused to historic environments, unlawful excavation, architectural theft, and illegal alteration or demolition of listed buildings.

Dr Andy Brown, English Heritage regional director for the South East, said: "Places we treasure and enjoy lose their identity and appeal, evidence about our past is lost and tourism suffers."

Recent heritage crimes include:

- Illegal excavations at Thurnham Castle on the North Downs and Stuttfall Castle in Romney Marsh.
- Lead theft from St Mary of Charity in Faversham.
- Graffiti problems at Drop Redoubt in Dover's Western Heights and several attempts at break-ins.

Picture: ENGLISH HERITAGE

DAMAGE: Vandalism at Western Heights

service, says councillor

say she doesn't know what Kent County Council does differently to all the other councils in the county. There's still a grey area out there.

"There are some exciting things going on here, but they could be better, and we want the public to have as much input as possible."

Overview and scrutiny committees investigate issues affecting KCC and the people of Kent, making recommendations to improve council services.

Cllr Hotson said that, given the technology available today – including social networking websites, email, and smartphones – there was little excuse for elected members not to engage more closely with the public.

Last month Kent Lib Dem leader Cllr Trudy Dean told KoS the scrutiny system needed an overhaul due to the disproportionate number of Conservative councillors.

Cllr Dean is the only non-Tory councillor to chair any of the authority's nine scrutiny committees, but Cllr Hotson did not think that was a problem.

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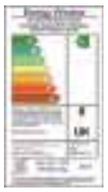
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£10k ransoms from 'nasty' dognappers

DOGNAPPING is on the rise across the UK with some thieves demanding ransoms of up to £10,000 for their safe return, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Kent Police investigates more than 70 cases of canine thefts per year, with the DogLost website reporting that owners are more at risk in the South East than anywhere else in the country.

As a result, the two organisations have joined forces in an attempt to reduce the heartbreak caused when a family is separated from their pet.

"Dog theft has always been a big problem," said PC Kim White, who drew up the new strategy. "Originally if someone rang up and said their dog had been stolen, it would be taken down as a lost dog and you wouldn't then get a crime reference for it.

"Now if someone can say it's not lost and it's not just come off the lead and run off down the recreation ground, then it must be taken down as stolen.

"We can then link in with DogLost and hopefully be able to trace where this dog has gone to, because a lot of them will have been sold on."

TAKEN: Willow and Meg were found safe and returned home

Between December, 2007, and November last year, Kent Police received 222 separate crime reports where a dog was listed as stolen.

The trend shows no sign of abating as this week an online campaign was launched to help identify two men who stole a 10-week old puppy during a burglary in Strood.

The distraught owners of the missing Staffordshire Bull Terrier set up the Who Stole Rocco? group on Facebook after he was taken last month.

Last month police were able to reunite two trained gundogs – Willow and Meg – with their owners after the animals were stolen from the back of a car in Faversham.

This is not the only success detectives have enjoyed in reuniting dogs with their owners.

In December, 2008, an undercover officer arrested two women at Folkestone Central railway station after they agreed to return a missing terrier cross for £10,000 cash.

Speaking to the BBC Inside Out programme on Monday, owner Melanie Hodges said: "They wanted to know how much I would be willing to pay to get him back. They were initially offered £100 but they said they would keep him because I obviously didn't love him.

"That was particularly nasty, and to ask for that sort of money was just ridiculous."

Mrs Hodges revealed that Scamp died of meningitis about a year after the ordeal.

She added: "I don't know what they did to him but he wasn't the same dog after that. It was extraordinary and I don't wish this on anyone. It was awful."

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IVF must be given high priority, NHS trusts are warned

NHS TRUSTS must continue to provide IVF treatment to infertile couples despite financial constraints, the public health minister has said.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Anne Milton was speaking at the first meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Infertility on Tuesday, which was set up by the Conservative MP for Dartford Gareth Johnson.

Mr Johnson said it was "deeply disappointing" that NHS Medway and NHS West Kent had suspended IVF treatment until April as part of cost-cutting measures.

He said primary care trusts (PCTs) should give a higher priority to infertility treatment.

"The problem is that too often it has been given low priority because it is not seen a medical condition," Mr Johnson said.

"It is, and it is literally a matter of life and death because there are children around today who would not have been if couples had not received IVF in the past.

"Everybody knows someone who is affected by this, it is a huge issue.

"Other than actual pregnancy, infertility treatment is the second highest reason for women going to see their GP. It affects a lot of people so to push it into the long grass and not treat it as a priority is wrong."

Mrs Milton said that couples desperate to start a family could experience mental health problems such as depression if they did not receive treatment.

Mr Johnson said the Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has already said that couples should have access to three cycles of fertility treatment on the NHS.

He added: "IVF is a British invention so Britain should be pioneering in this. In a scientific way we are, but PCTs have to play their part and it has to be available to British couples on the NHS.

"It is deeply disappointing that it is not."

A spokeswoman for the Medway PCT said: "Unless the woman is going to hit 40 which is the cutoff point or there is another clinical reason, then we will look at the case."

Both PCTs said they planned to lift the ban on GP referrals for the procedure in April.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommends that three full cycles of IVF should be available to women under 40.

However, the county's PCTs, NHS West Kent, NHS Medway and NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, only offer couples up to six IUI (intra-uterine insemination – injecting sperm directly into the womb) treatments and two full cycles of IVF or ICSI.

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JENNA PUDELEK meets the council chief about

New opportunities

FOR a man poised to run two district councils at a time of deep cuts to local government spending and growing disquiet as the impact of the savings begins to show, David Hughes appears to be taking it all in his stride.

The chief executive of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council says he is "not really concerned" about the extra workload when he takes over jointly running Gravesham Borough Council in July.

Sitting at a round table in the mayor's office, which he said is good for divisive meetings, he talks about how the tough economic times are driving increasing numbers of councils to share top jobs and jointly deliver services.

Under the plans, the two councils will share Mr Hughes' time and salary equally. The combined salaries of the two chief executives, including allowances, was £226,000.

For the new job he will be paid £118,000 a year.

The move is expected to save each council £65,000 annually, which he said equated to the authority increasing council tax by one per cent.

Mr Hughes, who has led Tonbridge council for eight years, has also been tasked with looking at the feasibility of the two councils sharing an entire chief officer team, which would save £250,000 a year.

BIG JOB: David Hughes is set to take the reins of Gravesham Borough Council on top of his role for Tonbridge and Malling

The two authorities are both district councils and they are both in Kent, but there are a lot of differences between the two areas.

"With the actual geography of the areas there are similarities," he said pointing out that both shared urban centres and rural areas located in green belt land near major motorways, the M20 and M2.

"The rural areas have similar challenges around economic development, but we don't compete like Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells for inward investment.

"The areas are very different in terms of retail and in terms of employment. Demographically they are quite different.

"Gravesham has much larger diversity of population in terms of the ethnic mix. But I do not see that difference as a downside I see it as an advantage."

He said he sees the merging of top jobs as an opportunity for Tonbridge to share good practice and learn from areas where Gravesham is strong, such as dealing with equality and ethnic minorities.

"There are similar challenges in terms of regeneration of high streets," he said. "Both councils want to see their town centre revitalised and both were in a good position to achieve that before the recession.

"We hope to get back on track and there are good skills within Gravesham around regeneration that could be shared with Tonbridge and Malling."

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to double-up on his responsibilities

in merged role

Residents share his desire to see the town's somewhat lacklustre high street transformed and offering a decent range of shops, cafés and bars.

"Modern retailers want more than 8,000sq ft of retail space," he said. "Tonbridge is very traditional and the high street units are just not big enough to attract well-known names.

"We had a very well-developed plan to redevelop the bottom area in a way that would have brought in the type of retail unit that would attract the significant names you see in most high streets."

But the plans have been a victim of the recession and the high street continues to decline.

Mr Hughes said: "We are talking to various parties, but it is going to take a while before the confidence returns."

He said he is determined to see the centre become "just as vibrant as Tunbridge Wells".

Meanwhile, he will soon be getting on with the day-to-day running of two councils, which he believes will be made easier by government policies designed to free public organisations from the bureaucracy and red tape of inspection regimes.

Perhaps it also begins to answer the most obvious question – if sharing chief executives and top officer teams makes sense and saves money, why have councils taken so long to realise it?

"There are a number of factors at play," Mr Hughes said.

"The Government is planning to abolish the Audit Commission, which has a very demanding inspection regime. A lot of my time is spent dealing with that. So that is going to free up quite a bit of management resource both for myself and my colleagues."

He said time would also be saved because the councils would only have to read and interpret giant government documents, like the Localism Bill, once.

"There will be significant savings because in future once I've taken up that role, we will do it once and for both councils," he said.

Mr Hughes added: "There are quite a number of councils who are doing it in different parts of the country.

Savings

"There are 28 and more thinking about it in Kent, including Dover and Shepway.

"The reason why councils are tending to do that now is because it is against the backdrop of the spending cuts and looking for ways of saving money in order to protect services they provide.

"Sharing is a way of reducing management overheads, generating a reasonable amount of savings."

Mr Hughes is set to take over when his Gravesham counterpart Glynn Thompson retires. The councils will test the arrangement for two years, when Mr Hughes is due to retire.

He said it was an opportunity to "see how it works" and councils across Kent are likely to be watching closely too as Tonbridge and Gravesham test so far uncharted water for the county.

• ***What do you think? Send us your views to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.***

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Snapshot of

As the census forms start dropping through letterboxes, MARIJKE COX looks at how the information is used

Pictures: KENT ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY SERVICE

TRADING PLACES: Honnor's corn and coal merchants in Week Street, Maidstone

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how we once lived

BUSTLING: Every shop in Ashford High Street would have been recorded by the census

PRESENT AND CORRECT: This original manuscript relates to census returns for the parish of All Saints, Maidstone, in 1811

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO centuries ago the first census was created by the Government to gather information about the population and plan for the future.

The records show rapid social change through the years, and reflects major events such as the two world wars, giving a snapshot of life in England and Wales.

For Kent, the census reveals significant changes in working life, with 19th century employment ranging from clog makers to pug hunters, who controlled the journeys of empty trains around the districts.

Just over 150 years ago the county's population included 61 vermin destroyers, 5,028 farmers – 369 of whom were female – and two 70-year-old men with 20-year-old wives.

Poverty

Nicky Field, Kent lead for the Office of National Statistics, said the census was the only consistent snapshot of life through the years.

She said: "It shows the shift in society, not just the number of people, but how they lived.

"If you look at the questions asked it can tell a lot too. For example, asking about whether a household had outside toilets was used as proxy for finding out about poverty.

"The census is a count of the population and within that, it asks questions including how people travel to work and the type of housing they live in."

Ms Field said by gathering information about the population, local authorities and other public bodies are able to plan for the future, from where to build schools or hospitals to public transport and retirement homes, based on demographics.

Ten years ago, the National Census captured a snapshot of England and those statistics have been used to influence life today.

The Office of National Statistics is now preparing to send out questionnaires to residents in Kent to help gather information to help plan for our future needs.

Ms Field said: "It's important that people fill these in. If they don't, local and central government will find it hard to make plans."

Major changes have been seen since the last census appeal in 2001, when an average terraced house cost £88,000 and petrol prices were about 78p a litre.

Information collated helped with major developments, including the high-speed train service and new transport links, such as the new Sheppey crossing.

Ms Field said: "The census is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, and all information given by people remains completely confidential.

"It's a legal requirement that everyone completes it – even the Queen has to do it."

Questionnaires will be delivered to households by hand or post at the beginning of next month and for the first time responses can be submitted online.

Sex attack victim forced into a car

A WOMAN suffered a serious sexual assault after she was forced into a car.

It is believed the woman, 20, who was at the junction of Sondes Road and Prince of Wales Terrace in Deal, was forced inside a vehicle after a man pulled up to speak to her.

The assault, between 6-8am on Sunday, February 6, is thought to have taken place inside the vehicle.

The victim was found alone on a beach in Kingsdown by a dog walker who drove her to hospital.

Two men are believed to have been involved.

Det Insp Matt Banks said: "I am very keen to speak to the woman who kindly took the victim to hospital. She may hold important information which will help this investigation."

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Double blow of benefits cuts and reduced stock raises spectre of homelessness

COLD COMFORT: Experts predict an average 20 per cent reduction in private rented accommodation across the county will lead to a big increase in homelessness

Porchlight warns of 'perfect storm' in housing rental

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A LEADING homelessness charity has warned of mounting pressure on services as the amount of privately-rented accommodation looks set to decline rapidly.

Chief executive of Porchlight Mike Barrett said this, combined with the blow to the economy following Pfizer's announcement it was pulling out of Kent, would create a "perfect storm". His comments came in response to a Government housing benefits impact report which revealed the availability of private-rented housing would reduce by an average of 20 per cent in the county over the next year.

In Dover and Shepway, the current 55 per cent availability is predicted to drop to 33, Maidstone from 52 per cent to 33, Thanet from 53 per cent to 36; and Canterbury 51 per cent to 39.

And with house-building targets, which includes affordable homes, being missed by 15 per cent since 2002 – with only 27,830 of 32,700 being built – industry insiders warned that homelessness would be unavoidable for some.

Mr Barrett said the reduction in availability coupled with changes to the Local Housing Allowance, where housing benefit is being slashed as part of sweeping Coalition Government cuts, would create a two-fold problem.

He admitted that Kent-wide charity Porchlight, which supports vulnerable homeless people or those at risk of homelessness, was already seeing a rise in demand on services.

"The problem the changes create is two-fold. On the one hand there will be reduced housing stock for us to move clients into, and on the other there is an increased demand for services," he said.

Bottleneck

"This creates a bottleneck in the system where we can't move people on who are ready to live independently, in order to free up services for those who need help."

The impact report also showed that 50 per cent of people in receipt of housing benefit in the South East would be worse off. Mr Barrett called it a double blow and warned it could trigger a sharp rise in homelessness in Kent, particularly in rural areas.

"We are already seeing increased demand across the county," he said.

"Such a major reduction in benefits will hit those already vulnerable hard. With the addition of blows to the fragile economy such as the closure of Pfizer, we have the ingredients for the perfect storm."

Figures released by the National Housing Federation showed a 25 per increase in the number of homeless people in rural areas nationwide.

The federation warned the problem would worsen as the supply of affordable homes failed to keep up with waiting lists. Bosses at the organisation called on local authorities to draw up housing action plans setting out how to meet the needs of the area.

Chief executive David Orr said: "When people think of the countryside they don't normally associate it with homelessness. But our research shows that it is a problem that affects rural areas as well as urban places."

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Telescope 'could find aliens'

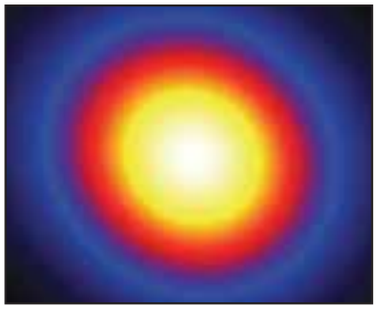
By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

ASTRONOMERS say the quality of a huge new telescope partly run by the University of Kent could lead to the discovery of alien life.

Near-perfect images of a black hole in a distant galaxy were taken by the International Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) telescope, which, rather than being one single piece of equipment, is actually a network of antennae situated throughout Europe.

The array uses radio waves to send and receive images from space, and at 10,000km wide, is by far the largest in the world and capable of generating images three times sharper than previously possible.

LOFAR-UK, which has an antenna station in Chilbolton, Hampshire, is funded through a collaboration of 22 British universities, including Kent.



"It's exhilarating that we can picture the distant universe in such detail," said Professor Michael Smith, of the university's centre for astrophysics and planetary science.

"Now we can use LOFAR to address some of the big questions, such as what is going on with the mysterious dark energy that is pushing the galaxies apart faster and faster?

"It is a privilege for Kent to be participating thanks to SEPNet, which networks us to other scientists in the South East, rather analogous to how LOFAR gets telescopes to work in unison across Europe."

The LOFAR telescope was designed and built by Astron – the Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy – and is currently being extended across Europe.

As well as deep cosmology, the antennae will also be used to monitor the Sun's activity, study planets and understand more about lightning and geo-magnetic storms.

The black hole shown in the pictures on this page is known as quasar 3C196, which forms part of a patch of sky 15 degrees wide – as large as a thousand full moons.

Prof Smith is confident such advancements in technology will one day result in the discovery of intelligent life on other planets.

IN FOCUS: This patch of sky shows the black hole as a bright spot in the middle. Left is a close-up picture of the black hole

He said: "We can send these radio waves into outer space, but we are hoping to pick up others coming in the opposite direction.

"We're getting close to finding out if there are other civilisations out there, and logic dictates that there should be, given the sheer size of the universe.

"Hopefully it's only a matter of time before we find them.

"In all likelihood they will be more advanced than us, so hopefully they will be able to receive our radio waves and will already be sending some out for us to find."

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Gang netted £3.5m in shop raids

A VIOLENT gang of thieves who stole millions of pounds in armed raids across the country have been sentenced to more than 130 years in prison, ***writes Joe Bill***.

A 30-strong crew, which included two men from Bromley and 28-year-old ringleader James Stewart, of McKenzie Court, Maidstone, have finally been brought to justice.

An extensive Metropolitan Police Flying Squad investigation led to the capture of the mob who hit a number of businesses across Kent and the south of England.

Dressed in white boiler suits and balaclavas, small teams armed with axes, sledge hammers and CS spray raided unsuspecting high street shops in broad daylight.

The group prefered to target jewellers, smashing their way in to shops and stealing high value goods. The total value of the stolen items was more than £3.5 million.

On February 13, 2008, one of the small groups raided the Fraser Hart Jewellery store in Fremlin Walk, Maidstone. After smashing through the front window the crew made off with more than £30,000 of jewellery and tried to escape in a getaway van. CCTV cameras were able to follow the offenders as they tried to escape the town. After a dramatic chase, police closed in and arrested the thieves after they became stuck in traffic.

During another raid in the county, staff at K&S Racing Kent, a motorcycle shop in Milton Road, Sittingbourne, were bound together and threatened at knifepoint before raiders stole motorbikes worth £25,000.

Again police gave chase and eventually arrested the criminals.

However, the gang had been more successful outside of Kent with a list of 31 other targets including one jewellery store in Antwerp, Belgium.

The Flying Squad was first alerted to the raids in January, 2009, and worked closely with several county police forces to identify the gang's ringleaders.

Officers revealed the leaders would target the jewellery shops and conduct reconnaissance missions before purchasing equipment including overalls, and weapons. They would then recruit south east London-based associates to act out the raids.

A covert operation was mounted on March 13, 2009, resulting in the arrest of James Stewart, during a raid on Mappin & Webb jewellers in Guildford.

A further operation on May 18, 2009, led to the arrests of Bromley duo John Chambers and Lee Rawlings, as they prepared to attack the David Dudley jewellers in Marlborough.

At Kingston-Upon-Thames Crown Court last week, the ringleaders, including Stewart and Chambers were convicted of carrying out 18 conspiracies to commit robbery as well as 16 counts of conspiracy to burgle from 2008 to 2010.

JAIL: Ringleader James Stewart (left) and John Chambers were part of the 30-strong gang

A total of 30 gang members were sent to prison with 21 more associates jailed in separate court hearings across the country between 2008 and 2010.

Stewart was convicted of 10 conspiracies to commit robbery and five conspiracies to commit burglary.

He was sentenced to 14 years in jail.

Chambers, 35, of Swiftsden Way, Bromley, was convicted of one conspiracy to commit robbery and five conspiracies to commit burglary and was sentenced to nine years, nine months.

Rawlings, 29, of Rayfield Close, Bromely, was convicted of one conspiracy to commit robbery. He was sentenced to six years behind bars.

Det Insp Jason Prins, of the Met's Flying Squad, said: "These sentences are the result of a lengthy operation by the Met's Flying Squad.

"We targeted these violent individuals who have shown they were prepared to use significant force to steal large quantities of jewellery.

"The incidents were terrifying for the staff members and their customers who were caught up in them; it is our duty to protect people from this level of violence.

"The sentences also demonstrate our commitment to deal with violent and organised crime in our communities and sends out a strong message that this type of criminal behaviour will not be tolerated."

Bach's links effect on prodigal sons

THE LINK between classical composer Bach and dance act The Prodigy will be explained by an award-winning conductor.

Charles Hazlewood will present his lecture Six Degrees of Separation – What Connects JS Bach to The Prodigy, at the University of Kent on Wednesday, February 23, at 6pm. The talk is free and open to all.

Hazlewood regularly works with orchestras around the world, and he also hosts The Charles Hazlewood Show on Radio 2, which has won him three Sony Awards.

The lecture will be followed at 8pm by an exploration of South American music as the Brodsky Quartet performs alongside Argentinean-born musician Diana Baroni.

Tickets for the concert, priced £17, are available on 01227 769075, or by booking online at www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.

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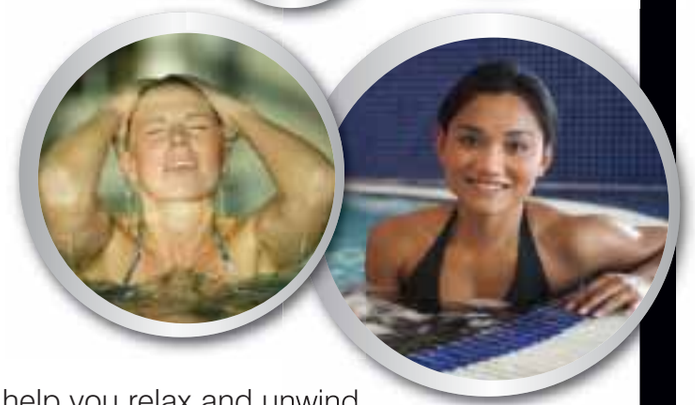

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Online petition at forefront of fight to save boatyard

A PETITION to save jobs and maritime skills at Faversham's historic Standard Quay boatyard has reached 300 signatures in just over a week, ***writes Gareth Arnold***.

Yet the owner of Standard Quay, Michael White, maintains that fears traditional boatbuilding firms will squeezed out by increased tourism are unfounded.

He said: "I want to keep the traditional purpose of the quay – the repair and maintenance of boats, encouraging barges and yachtsmen to moor there. We're replacing the crane that's operating there at the moment with a new one, and we'll have all the dry dock facilities and we'll repair the wharf."

Mr White makes no secret of the fact he wants to encourage visitors to the creek with other, non-maritime businesses, and says this is the only way to make sure the quay remains a vibrant and viable prospect.

He said: "We had 600 visitors there last Sunday and there was no-one working there at all. We need to improve the facilities to keep the creek working all-year-round and make it live up to its potential."

But the campaigners behind the petition say increased tourism is incompatible with developing the quay as a working boat yard.

Sue Cooper, of Standard Quay (Faversham) Ltd, said: "Standard Quay (Faversham) Ltd loses its lease on June 21, when Faversham's traditional shipwrights and their apprentices must leave their quayside workshops. New leases have not been offered and the site's owner Quayside Properties Ltd has earmarked it for development as a tourist attraction. Standard Quay (Faversham) Ltd has overseen substantial investment in employment and training. The facilities at Standard Quay do not need redevelopment to allow this to continue and expand.

"Indeed, suggested 'improvements' such as allowing increased retail or restaurant use would harm the potential to expand training in traditional skills and the continuation and expansion of highly skilled local employment on what is presently the working quay."

The petition is Swale council's first-ever electronic petition, which opened at 1pm on February 4.

Standard Quay's supporters believe the final count could reach the thousands.

The e-petition has not yet been widely publicised and spread over the weekend by word of mouth, email and Facebook.

Mrs Cooper said: "I posted it on the Save Standard Quay Facebook page, but have not done anything else to publicise it.

"This response is indicative of the level of concern in Faversham and elsewhere about the role of Standard Quay as a vital part of the maritime industry of Faversham Creek.

"I hope Swale council will see that and take action to secure a future for Standard Quay's skilled craftsmen and apprentices.

"With companies like Pfizer leaving Kent, they need to protect skilled local jobs wherever possible."

The e-petition goes directly to the council's website so support can be tracked as it grows and will remain open until July 31.

FEARS: The historic Standard Quay

Until 2003, when Standard Quay Faversham Ltd, received its first notice to quit, supporters claim the business was developing well and attracting an ever-expanding array of traditional and historic vessels to moor and repair.

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SAFETY LESSON: Schools play vital role

Keeping your children safe on the web

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

INTERNET safety experts have launched a campaign to ensure young web surfers are being protected from paedophiles, hackers and other online criminals.

The Think B4U... initiative aims to remind children, teachers and parents of the potential dangers of shopping online or communicating via social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

This week, schools throughout Kent received posters and e-safety literature to mark the Europe-wide Safer Internet Day, on Tuesday.

"The internet is a useful resource but there are some very real dangers to it," said Cllr Sarah Hohler, cabinet member for children, families and education at Kent County Council.

"Schools have an important role to play in educating students about these risks, but parents and carers should make sure online content is suitable for their child.

"It's important we all work together to make the online world a safer place for children to learn and play."

Last October, Joseph Peacock, 21, from Tonbridge, was jailed for 16 months after pretending to be a teenage boy on Facebook to contact more than 50 girls.

Shocking

The girls with webcams were asked to use sites like MSN to make direct contact with him, but when they did they were faced with the shocking image of Peacock performing a sex act on himself.

Police have dealt with hundreds of similar offences committed by internet paedophiles over the last few years, while also having to contend with a host of other internet-related offences.

Another worrying trend is the number of parties now being advertised over Facebook, which in the past have attracted large numbers of uninvited guests and descended into violence.

KCC's e-safety officer, Becki Avery, is behind the council's push to keep people safe in cyberspace.

She said: "The internet is part of many people's lives and it is important to not take it for granted. It is very easy in today's society to give away important details which can fall into the wrong hands.

"It is essential that today's young people understand that online actions have offline consequences. It is easy to forget you have a potential audience of millions of people online, as they are hidden behind a computer, mobile phone or games console."

According to a recent survey, 66 per cent of children admit lying to their parents about their online behaviour, while 44 per cent say they can hide unsuitable internet material from them.

Kent Police also advise parents to ensure their child is not in harm's way. Det Sgt Dave Shipley said: "You would not let a stranger play with your children in your home, and that is how you should view the internet."

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/esafety for details.

CHANNEL 4 newsreader Jon Snow will deliver a free lecture at the University of Kent in memory of his former colleague Bob Friend.

Snow will look at the impact of social media on journalism at the Pilkington Lecture Theatre, Medway campus, at 7pm on Friday, February 25. During the evening a first-year student at the university's Centre for Journalism will be presented with the Sky Bob Friend Scholarship.

Mr Friend, who grew up in Tunbridge Wells, was the face of Sky News from its inception in 1989 until his retirement in 2003. He died of a brain tumour in October, 2008, aged 70.

The Sky Bob Friend Memorial Scholarship is among the most prestigious prizes available to undergraduate students of journalism.

A TOPPING-out ceremony was held at the site of the new Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone.

The multi-million-pound development will ultimately be home to more than 14km of archive documents, dating as far back as 699AD.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter and cabinet member for community services, Cllr Mike Hill, attended the topping-out ceremony, joined by representatives of the construction firms involved with the project.

Cllr Hill said: "The History and Library Centre will be an impressive place to come for anyone wanting to learn more about local and family history in the county. Visitors will be able to access many more documents and archives than ever before"

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How to make it in music, from a man who knows

By GARETH ARNOLD
gareth.arnold@kosmedia.co.uk

A BUSINESSMAN and promoter who worked with stars such as David Bowie and The Clash is giving a talk on how to make it in the music industry.

David Stopps, of 3DiCD Media and FML International Artist Management, started his career as a promoter of the famous Friars Club in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

He promoted many musicians including U2, Genesis, The Kinks, Blondie, The Police, Queen, Fleetwood Mac, The Jam, Kraftwerk, and The Ramones, and went on to manage Marillion, Howard Jones and The Fat Lady Sings in the 80s. In recognition of his work, he received the Music Managers Forum (MMF) Roll of Honour award in May, 2008.

Now he will share his expertise with aspiring stars in an open lecture at Canterbury Christ Church University's Broadstairs Campus this month.

Aimed at teaching people how to make a living from music, Stopps' talk will provide a short history of the music business and how copyright has developed for songwriters and performers.

He will also discuss the use and importance of music in film, TV productions, advertising and video games, as well as the digital online delivery of music.

Martin Whiskin, guitarist with Sittingbourne and Canterbury folk act Los Salvadores, says his band struggles to pay for everything, despite high-profile bookings such as a main stage slot at Lounge on the Farm festival, near Canterbury.

Downloads

He said: "We're one of the lucky bands in that our main source of income is now from gig fees, supplemented by our monthly wages.

"But people can't afford to go to the gigs as many times as they are put on, thus spreading the crowds thinner across all gigs, rather than having a few decently attended ones.

"Digital music, free downloads, piracy etc has had an impact on physical sales. Bands can make more money selling merchandise at gigs than the money taken from iTunes sales, for example."

Credit: FRIARS CLUB AYLESBURY

REBEL YELL: Clash guitarist Mick Jones performing at Stopps' famous Friars Club

Combating piracy and the importance of copyright is a key point of Stopps' lecture.

Stopps has worked in the industry for more than four decades and has shared some of his knowledge and expertise in the book How to Make a Living from Music, published by the United Nations.

In 2009, he successfully re-opened the place where it all began, the Friars Club, after a break of 25 years. The club currently boasts more than 90,000 members, making it the largest music club in Europe.

The lecture is on Thursday, February 17, and starts at 6pm. It is free to attend, but reservations are required. To book a place call 01843 609184.

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Police train marksmen in ex-Cold War bunker

METROPOLITAN Police officers are using a disused Cold War nuclear bomb proof bunker for hostage training.

Teams of marksmen from the CO19 branch have begun staging a series of mock operations at the former radar station near Ash.

The building contains a labyrinth of rooms constructed after World War Two and is currently used to house sensitive electronic data.

"Firearms training involves tactical exercises to test and develop the skills of our officers," a Met Police spokesman said.

"Although we have our own specialist training centre at Gravesend where our officers practice these skills, from time to time we require different locations to create new and challenging environments."

The underground complex also hosts a company offering secure data storage for banks and technology companies.

It was constructed to withstand a nuclear explosion and would have acted as a command and control centre for the RAF in the event of armed conflict.

Staff at the base have been posing as hostages in scenarios which focus on rescuing people without injury or damaging sensitive computer equipment.

Ray Welsh, of The Bunker, which owns the site, said the training had been taking place in unoccupied parts of the building.

He said: "It certainly livens up the day a bit, but they have not caused us a large amount of disruption.

"We are running a business and keeping them away from the live equipment."

Chief exec named for new NHS trust

MARION Dinwoodie has been appointed to as chief executive of the proposed new Kent Community Health NHS Trust from April 1.

Kent Community Health NHS Trust will be formed by the planned merger of Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust and West Kent Community Health.

It will provide community healthcare to Kent's 2.4 million residents, making it the biggest provider of NHS care in patients' homes and in the community in the country.

Ms Dinwoodie has 25 years experience as a manager and chief executive in a number of healthcare organisations.

Royal's theatre visit

PRINCE Edward is visiting the Marlowe Theatre next week.

The Earl of Wessex, who is royal patron for the theatre's fundraising campaign, will be in Canterbury on Monday, February 14.

He will be taken on a tour of the site and also attend a reception at Kings School.

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Families fear loss of DLA

Maria Miller is at it again. Last week the Minister for the Disabled stated in the same breath that she was not taking money from the disabled – and that she was cutting Disability Living Allowance by 20 per cent. Contradiction?

Sadly, disabled people are used to Ms Miller's through the looking-glass pronouncements.

She says she wants disabled people to live independent lives, yet she's abolishing the DLA mobility funding for people in residential schools or homes which allows them to visit the outside world and be part of their families.

She says DLA is a barrier to work, yet DLA actively enables disabled people to work, contributing towards transport, wheelchairs and assistants.

She says DLA is spiralling in cost, yet in real terms it's almost the same as 13 years ago: £8 billion in 1997 (Hansard) roughly equates to £11 billion in 2010 (George Osborne's Budget speech).

She says she wants to use resources well, yet plans to duplicate medical and capability assessments already carried out for other benefits. Indeed she says 80 per cent of DLA awards are reviewed, yet wants to spend money repeatedly reassessing the 20 per cent "for life" awards that include the terminally ill and amputees.

She says we need to assess how disabilities affect people's daily lives, yet a DLA application already does this, with 50 pages of detailed questions, and statements from GPs, carers and hospital staff.

And the biggest contradiction of all: MPs parrot a mantra of looking after the vulnerable, yet families with a disabled member are living in fear.

Disability is a cost on the whole family, with members having to give up employment to provide full-time care for the disabled person, be they child, parent or spouse.

I've lost count of the number of times I've heard "I'm too scared even to think about these DLA changes," or "We only just manage to meet our disabled child's needs now, I've no idea how we'll cope if it's taken away."

So many are already on the edge: this could push them over.

It would be foolish to claim DLA is perfect – any system needs continuous tweaks and improvements. There are issues of co-ordination with local council services, and a real debate to be had about means-testing, for example.

None of these are tackled in the rebranding of DLA to Personal Independence Payment. As Ms Miller said in Parliament on October 18, her objective is "reform of DLA to deliver savings of 20 per cent of working age expenditure".

Nicci Cage, Canterbury

OPINION: PFIZER IS NOT THE END

South Thanet MP **LAURA SANDYS** says that there is no lack of ideas or interest when it comes to finding a future for the staff and site at Sandwich

PFIZER'S announcement to shut its operations in Sandwich has been a real blow to both the town and the east Kent community.

Local employees, contractors and the small businesses that depend on the site are those that we must focus on over the next weeks and months while Pfizer runs down its operations.

What is crucial is that we have a united team working together to find a secure and sustainable future for the site and to retain this important employment. With the determination of the east Kent MPs and the support from government we are already taking some important steps to address these challenges.

I have never seen such a strong reaction from government to such a closure. David Cameron, in response to a question I asked him last week, gave us a commitment to put all his and the Government's efforts into securing the future for the site and those who work there.

The Prime Minister recognises what a special site we have at Sandwich and said that the Pfizer operation was "a state of the art site" and paid tribute to its "brilliant employees who are doing great work".

We have been given the resources of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with the personal attention of the minister, David Willetts, and Secretary of State Vince Cable, who have established a taskforce, chaired by Kent County Council leader Paul Carter, to secure investment for the site and stabilise local jobs and skills. As part of that taskforce I am totally focused on ensuring the jobs stay in east Kent, that the world class site is used to its potential and that other parts of the site are regenerated to ensure a long term future for research and other activities in the area.

While there is no way to underestimate the impact this will have on the local economy if Pfizer closes without replacement activity, there are some real indications of interest and opportunity that we need to consider.

The solutions for the existing research staff lie in the new model for the pharmaceutical business globally. Large companies are contracting out work to smaller research organisations, and those are the sort of companies that we should be looking to attract to the site to employ staff, utilise the state of the art equipment and become suppliers to the large drugs companies.

For my part I have had hundreds of communications regarding business opportunities, new start up ideas, employing the existing staff on site – and I am sure Pfizer has had approaches, too.

There is no lack of interest, there are no lack of ideas, and following a meeting with investors there appears to be significant interest in the site from those with finance.

Some have tried to score political points from the closure. I would have liked to have seen the action that this government has shown had Pfizer closed down the manufacturing sector at Sandwich under the last government.

We all recognise that the company's decision reflects a trend in the pharmaceutical sector – to outsource research and development to smaller firms. Many within the sector have even suggested that gone are the days of Big Pharma and so Pfizer's decision merely reflects these changes.

What is certain is that now is not the time for political point scoring. It is a time for collaboration and rising to the challenges ahead.

Earlier in the week, the minister for science joined me for a meeting with Pfizer. The company knows that it has an important commitment to the community, to its staff and to the future of the site. But it is ultimately the quality of the staff that matter, the skills that we are so proud of, the role that each of our constituents play in the wider community, and their families who attend our schools and use our high streets.

I urge existing Pfizer staff to wait for some of these exciting new developments to come to fruition before dusting off their CVs.

These last few long days have shown me that our staff and the site are of importance to more than just the local community – we have a national asset.

KOS media COMMENT

Weight problem for ambulance crews

WHEN patients are so overweight the NHS has to spend thousands providing specially-adapted ambulances to carry them, you know there's something seriously wrong.

While obesity is seen by some as an illness, there can surely be no excuse for reaching a size that even large vehicles struggle to cope with.

And while £12,000 isn't a large sum compared with the £15 billion-£20bn savings the NHS must make over the next four years, the fact remains it could be spent on more useful – and more frequently used – equipment.

That every ambulance trust in the country has to make such alterations to its fleet demonstrates successive governments have failed to get to grips with obesity.

As health professionals know only too well, it's not enough to wait for people to scoff themselves into illness before teaching them the benefits of healthy eating and exercise.

Education at a young age is key, but perhaps it's time we stopped tiptoeing around the issue of obesity in the hope that fat people might be shamed into taking care of themselves.

It may be too late for the 35st man who needed the help of 15 firefighters to get out of his house last Monday, but there are undoubtedly others who can learn from his sorry tale.

Hearts and flowers for your true love

LOVE it or loathe it, there's no escaping the fact that Valentine's Day – February 14 – is here once again.

Walk past any florist, card shop or restaurant and you'll be overwhelmed by hearts, red roses, cuddly toys, and all manner of trinkets and treats associated with this romantic time of year.

But whether you're spending hundreds of pounds on your one true love, or sitting alone and cursing Cupid's lousy aim with that damned bow, just remember – Tuesday is only around the corner.

Isle must grasp its opportunity

I wish to comment on last week's letter from Cllr David Green of Ramsgate. At the recent rail summit at County Hall, Southeastern Trains came under fire for poor service. Its performance figures are now under scrutiny and MPs are calling for the company to be stripped of the franchise.

Manston has the longest runway in England and Kent International could be expanded to become the next London airport. However, residents in Ramsgate have always been up in arms at any expansion or night flights at Manston.

But expanding the airport will bring much-needed work to the area – especially welcome given that Pfizer is closing operations at Sandwich.

In these tough times and harsh economic climate, the people of Thanet will either sink or swim. It is up to them. If they want prosperity, they must welcome the new parkway station and airport, or see the isle decline further.

People have short memories. When the US Air Force was based at Manston they welcomed their dollars. Ramsgate was a wonderful place to stay and visit in the 1950s and '60s, but since then since tourism has ceased. Look what has happened to the old Merrie England amusement centre site, which has been an eyesore for years.

My grandparents lived in Ramsgate and my childhood was spent there – oh, for those happy times again!

T Aird, Isle of Sheppey

Rail credibility to this revival

Cllr David Green is correct in that Ramsgate can be improved.

However, the simple fact is, the majority of other major airports have a dedicated rail link, either as a spur (Stansted, Heathrow) or on an existing line (Gatwick, Birmingham) connected by travelators and so on. Imagine how it would be if Gatwick never got the slogan 'Catch the train and you've caught the plane', but 'Get a bus from Three Bridges or Redhill'.

Doesn't have quite the same ring, does it? Surely to have a top-notch, brand new, direct-link terminal, with all the facilities one would expect would give greater benefits beyond a flower seller and new bookstall – which is all that one can get at Ramsgate.

Yes, the initial cost would be high, as is always. However, with such a facility, the credibility factor of an area known for empty shops, a defunct funfair and an episode of Only Fools And Horses, would receive a great boost.

The sad loss of jobs at Pfizer will mean any improvements to an existing station would be good, but locally sourced construction workers and longer-term staff to run and build Manston Parkway would be a massive difference for those on the dole (or who soon will be) and real hope for far more than David's suggestion.

Yes, this may mean the prospect of more flights and thus opposition. However, many people who live nearby must surely have thought: "We have an airport next door and, with increasing demand and population, the chances are there will be more flights."

If such a station is agreed, then local sweeteners such as discount tickets (especially if there is an increase in number of destinations) or other freebies for those in the flight path. As a railway man for many years, a new station generating greater demand for trains in that area would be fantastic.

Steve Byers, Rainham

Pfizer reaction very welcome

In common with most local people, I welcome all the efforts made to attract new employment opportunities to the Pfizer site over the next two years and wish the task force led by Cllr Paul Carter every success.

In the meantime, we need to give those affected every support as they consider their futures.

That is why I will be discussing with colleagues and stakeholders how we might use the facilities of the Town Hall in Deal to contribute to this help and support, which is so badly needed.

Cllr Ben Bano, Mayor of Deal

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ANDERSON
Claudia and Chris Anderson of Margate celebrate the birth of their daughter Amelia Kiera Anderson on 28th January 2011.

BAILEY
Marc and Polly Bailey celebrate the birth of their son Matthew John Stanley Bailey on 17th January 2011.

CHILMAID
Tylie and Daniel celebrate the birth of their son Harry James Chilmaid on 29th January 2011.

COWELL
Marc and Dawn of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the birth of their baby daughter Rosie Jane Elizabeth Cowell, born 13th January 2011.

GOLDSMITH
Shane Trott and Denise Goldsmith are pleased to announce the birth of their son Keeson Baden Goldsmith, born at the William Harvey Hospital on 18th January 2011, weighing 10lbs 4oz.

HART
Freddie, born 25th January 2011 to Nicola and David. A beautiful new brother for Arthur and Violet.

JACKSON
Summer-Rose born on the 23rd of January 2011, weighing 7lbs 8ozs. Daughter to Katie and Damian Jackson.

JONES
Dylan and Marissa of Hernhill are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Ivy Lloyd Jones, who was born at home on 10th January 2011. A little sister for Dexter.

SHANNON
Mayson Ray Richard Shannon born on 30th January 2011, weighing 7lbs 1oz. Son to Hannah Shannon in Birchington.

WEST
Sophie Brunt and Anthony West of Sittingbourne celebrate the birth of their daughter Ruby-Louise Kate West on 25th January 2011. Our most beautiful and precious daughter.

DEATHS

DAWSON
Philip Godfrey Dawson, formerly of Basingstoke, passed away peacefully after a long illness on 31st January 2011, aged 85.

LONGMAN
Fred Longman of Faversham passed away on 3rd February 2011. Enquiries to Hogben and Partis, Funeral Directors, 37 Stone Street, Faversham, 01795 532319.

OLIVER
Vera Emma Oliver of Whitstable passed away peacefully after a short illness on 1st February 2011, aged 83 years. A much loved mum, grandma and great grandma who will be deeply missed. The funeral will be held at Barham Crematorium on 16th February at 11.20.

TIPPLE
James (Jim) passed away on 27th January after a short illness. Enquiries to Co-Op Funeral Services, Bexleyheath - 02083 031856.

WILLETTS
Derek Charles passed away peacefully on 28th January 2011. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Saving libraries

Last Saturday, people across the country came out in support of libraries for the National Save Our Libraries Event.

The support from communities should send a strong message to councils contemplating closing libraries or handing them over to volunteers. Whilst we do not know what Kent's plans are, we know they are intending on conducting a consultation with the public.

We have seen in Cambridgeshire what these consultations mean. The public are offered a choice between volunteer-run libraries or library closures. These are not true options. The people of Kent deserve a full range of options, including leaving libraries as they are and requesting the council looks elsewhere for savings (or request that they use the £5 million kept aside for 'Big Society' projects).

The introduction of the much self-service system is also a concern. Because Kent, like many other authorities, has opted for a self-service solution that will only work in Kent, rather than adopting the international standard recommended by the MLA, it is granting its supplier an effective monopoly, as well as actively preventing the possibility of sharing resources with other authorities.

Next week, surveys will be available in library buildings for the public to give their feedback. We urge everyone across Kent to express their support for their library service and express clearly to the council that either a straight choice between closures or handing libraries to volunteers is not an option.

Anyone with concerns about their library service can contact us at contact@voicesforthelibrary.org.uk

Ian Clark, Chartham, Canterbury

Phone hang-up

Does your regular correspondent, Carole Russell, not realise when she 'insists' on a device to stop the use of mobile phones in a car with the engine running, that a mobile may be used by a passenger, not just the driver?

If I'm taking a taxi, should I be banned from using a phone? If my wife is my passenger and I ask her to contact someone, should she be prevented? Has Carole Russell never heard of Bluetooth connection that provides a hands-free facility for a driver? We have laws to prevent the driver using a mobile in a moving vehicle. Perhaps Carole Russell should put pressure on the police to enforce the law, rather than prevent a passenger or a sensible driver from using a phone?

Howard Johnston, Broadstairs

No more promises

So David Cameron is at it again with his promise to sort out the multiculturalism that has failed in this country.

Just another promise to throw in the huge box of broken promises he is responsible for. It might be better if he stopped making himself look and sound like a fool because nobody believes his promises any more

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Census 'snooping'

We are weeks away from what has been described as the most intrusive census.

On March 27, we will have to account for anyone who spends that night at our homes and their personal details.

People will also have to give any address where they spend more than 30 nights a year.

Anyone not answering these questions is liable to a £1,000 fine. In opposition, government ministers criticised the 'snooper census' for showing no respect for privacy, but once in power failed to do anything. They should make it clear that anyone safeguarding their privacy on these questions will not face charges.

Mark Taylor, New Alliance

Jettison baggage

I think councils, the police, and NHS should get rid of anyone whose job title includes any of the following words: diversity, equality, five-a-day, climate change or strategy, before they even think about cutting bus services, libraries, police officers, nurses, or any other service which directly benefits the public.

These are all pointless jobs which they were forced to create by the last government. The first two can be covered by giving all staff an instruction saying 'treat everyone the same'. I seem to remember that, 20 years ago, these bodies seemed to function perfectly well without this baggage. Let them concentrate on providing a first-class service to the public, which is surely what people pay taxes for.

Jeff Tucker, Snodland

Sporting honours

In her Christmas message, the Queen stressed the important role sport plays in bringing people together, not only in developing physical fitness but in teaching social skills.

Her Majesty praised those who give up their time to participate in sport and exercise of all sorts, or those who encourage others to do so, thereby strengthening communities and creating harmony. She spoke, too, of sport having the power to rehabilitate, adding: "One only has to think of the injured men and women of the Armed Forces to see how an interest in games and sport can speed recovery and renew a sense of purpose, enjoyment and comradeship."

At this year's civic service at Canterbury Cathedral, from 11am on Tuesday, March 29, the Lord Lieutenant, Allan Willett CMG, the Queen's representative in Kent, wishes to honour Kent's sportsmen and women – and those who make our rich sporting scene possible, whether as trainers, adjudicators or sponsors. He is inviting anyone involved in sport to apply to attend the service. They will join civic leaders, representatives of the Armed Forces, emergency services, magistracy, health service, education, and voluntary sector.

Members of uniformed organisations, such as volunteer reservists, retained firemen, special constables, St John, Red Cross, Cadets, Scouts and Guides are also welcome. Those interested in attending should write to Jackie Dale in the Lord Lieutenant's office with full contact details. Email jackie@allanwillett.org or phone 01227 738800.

Brig (retd) David Ralls CBE DFC DL, chief of staff, Lieutenancy of Kent

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Keep Kent Working! It's jobs for Kent

Keep Kent Working! It's jobs for Kent 2011 Campaign

Sheps' chefs enjoy a slice of the action

BRITAIN'S oldest brewer Shepherd Neame hosted a skills development day for chefs working at its pubs in Kent.

The Faversham-based firm, which was founded in 1698, invited 11 kitchen leaders to learn from head development chef Simon Howlett before taking part in a Ready Steady Cook-style competition.

CUTTING EDGE: Head chef Simon Howlett

Development manager Graeme Endacott said: "The skills day, which we hope to stage on a regular basis, was a very good experience and the chefs came away enthused. It was a chance for them to meet and share best practice, and also for them to introduce new meat cuts which consumers in the UK may not have seen before.

"Customers can expect to try something special at many of Shepherd Neame's pubs and restaurants in the near future."

The learning day was held at food supplier Brakes in Ashford and supported by Andrew Rook, of Kent butchers chain JC Rook & Son, and Hugh Judd, of the English Beef and Lamb Executive.

Mr Howlett taught the chefs new meat cuts that were popular in the USA and South America but largely unknown in Britain.

He said: "I demonstrated the flat-iron steak, the club steak and picahna steak cuts.

"The flat-iron was developed in the US and is extremely tender as it comes from the chuck – part of the shoulder – in three thin cuts. The picahna is highly prized in beef-producing nations such as Brazil. It comes from the rump and is also thin cut; while the club steak is a fore rib cut, popular throughout America and continental Europe.

"The chefs will be looking at these new meat cuts with a view to putting them on their spring menus."

Apprentice's Brady backs our campaign

By STEVE KNIGHT

TOP businesswoman Karren Brady has voiced her support for the Keep Kent Working campaign.

The vice-chairman of West Ham United and star of the popular BBC TV show The Apprentice is one of a growing number of people to have lent their backing to the initiative, which aims to generate jobs and develop the county's talent for the future.

Brady spoke to Archant KOS Media after attending a summit entitled Building Business – Economic Growth through Apprenticeships, hosted by the national training provider City & Guilds.

She said of the Keep Kent Working campaign: "I think anything that promotes people getting into work, and particularly young people, is a good thing.

"The most important thing for businesses that are looking to grow and build a future for themselves is that they have employees around them who are fully skilled in the jobs they are required to perform.

"It's all about firms thinking carefully about what they need to succeed tomorrow as well as today."

According to City & Guilds, almost 90 per cent of employers surveyed in the South East said they viewed apprentices as key to the future success of their business over the next two years.

However, just under 80 per cent said they had experienced barriers in hiring apprentices including a lack of relevant training schemes, an abundance of red tape, and the supposed risk involved with taking on young workers during the downturn.

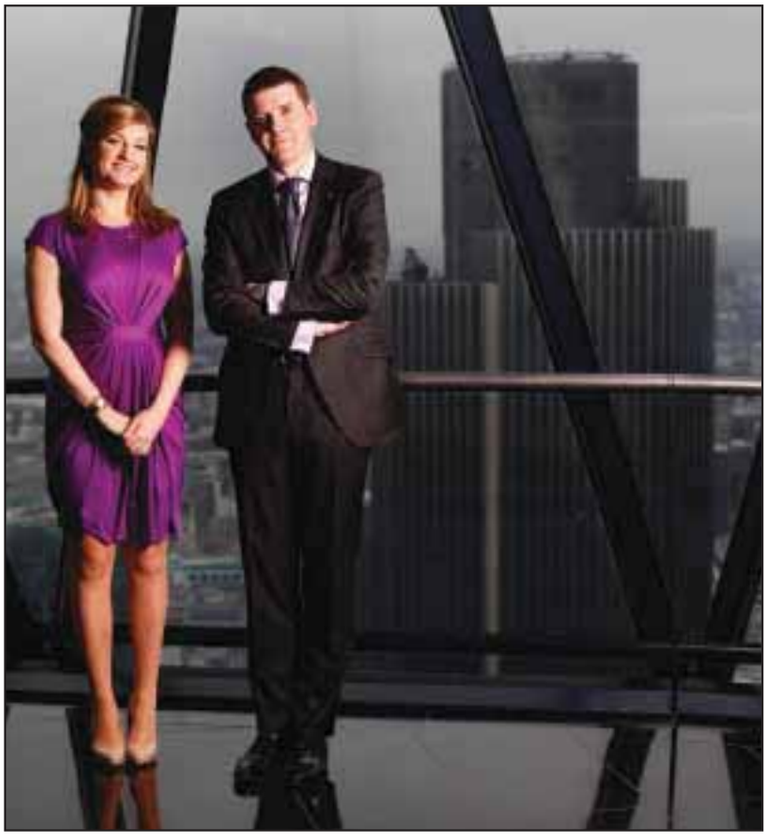
"Lots of organisations want to bring apprentices in and offer them the chance to learn new skills," said Brady, who is the wife of ex-footballer and current Burton Albion manager Paul Peschisolido.

"Equally, there are lots of young people out there who want these new roles and are applying. However, there's a real barrier in terms of the red tape involved and the issue of knowing where to go and how to get on an apprenticeship.

"There's a lot of feeling that not enough is being done to help the situation because lots of small and medium-size enterprises don't know where to start. But it's down to employers to work with national and local government to create the right types of apprenticeship."

West Ham United is one of a number of major employers to have signed up to City & Guilds' scheme to ensure one million people start an apprenticeship between now and the summer of 2013.

Chief executive Chris Jones said: "It is not enough for the Government to simply supply funding, as welcome as that may be. It's about collective action as we know there are many constraints on businesses currently as well as barriers around hiring apprentices."



ABOVE THE FRAY: Karren Brady with City & Guilds chief executive Chris Jones in the City of London

WHAT is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working?

Is it running an apprenticeship scheme to attract young workers? Are its employees being sent on training courses to aid their personal development? Or is it funding a university scholarship to help find the businessmen and women of the future?

Send your good news stories to steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk or call 01303 817136.

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Diploma chance with hall revamp

TEENAGERS are being invited to earn a qualification by taking part in a project to revamp part of an historic seaside building in Herne Bay.

Canterbury College is offering places to 16 to 18-year-olds on a three-month, full-time training course that will involve them carrying out work in the foyer of the King's Hall.

Those who complete the work will earn a BTEC introductory diploma in construction.

A college spokesman said: "Teenagers who are not currently in employment, education or training and want to get involved in the project will have to complete an introductory two-day programme and provide references.

"While current construction students at the college will also be involved in the building work, design students will come up with concepts for the interior including wallpaper and fabric for the chairs. When the area is finished it will be used by art students to showcase their work, and by the music department to stage performances."

The college was asked to help with the project by the Herne Bay Conservation Trust, which received a £50,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund after winning the People's Millions vote on Meridian television last November.

The King's Hall, which overlooks the sea on Beacon Hill, was originally named King Edward VII Memorial Hall when it was opened in July, 1913.

It is hoped the renovation work will be completed by August so the new venue can open in time for the Herne Bay Festival.

Contact Paula Matthews on 01227 811247 or email your CV to p.matthews@canterburycollege.ac.uk.

Chancellor Rhodes back to her roots

FASHION designer Zandra Rhodes will give a free public lecture at the University for the Creative Arts' Rochester campus next month.

Chatham-born Rhodes graduated from the campus – then known as the Medway College of Design – in 1961 and has gone on to dress some of the world's most famous people, including Princess Diana, Freddie Mercury and Kylie Minogue.

She was installed as the university's first ever chancellor in May last year, and will visit Rochester on Thursday, March 17.

Rhodes said: "My years at Medway were formative and shaped me into what I am today. The caring, dedicated staff guided and nurtured me and I learned the basics that have carried me through the rest of my life and career."

The lecture will start at 6pm and be followed by a free drinks reception.

Email events@ucreative.ac.uk or call 01252 892682 to book a place.

TICKLED PINK: Zandra Rhodes

Investing in six of the best shows campus confidence

THE University of Greenwich is investing in its Medway campus by hiring six new lecturers with specialist skills in engineering and science.

The posts are currently being advertised with a particular focus on sports and biomedical science.

Professor Neil Garrod, deputy vice-chancellor for resources, said: "Students thinking of applying to study at Medway will be encouraged to know the university is continuing to invest in their education.

"These new appointments will boost further the amount of personal attention students receive, as well as allowing us to expand successful programmes and support development in new areas.

"It is a measure of our past success as well as our confidence in, and commitment to, the future."

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Closing date: **23 February 2011**

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Closing date for applications is **18 February 2011**. Interviews will be held on **4 March 2011**.

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Closing date: 27th February 2011

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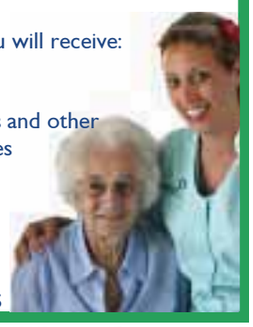

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- **Support Workers**
- **Waking Night Staff**

If you have a passion for the role, call Colin Miller now! CRB checks necessary

Loring Hall, 8 Water Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5ES
Tel: **020 8302 9302** Email: **colin@oakfields.net**

The Children's Society

The Secret Jungle Project, Margate

The Secret Jungle is an innovative new project based at Northdown Park, Margate. It is intended to offer an outdoor play space designed around the needs and wishes of disabled children of all ages, but where non-disabled children can also play. The Children's Society have worked closely with local partners including parents of disabled children to create a facility to meet their needs within the community and to develop inclusive play.

Part-time Administrator

£8,245.49 - £9,392 pa Ref: S02009/KOS

You'll provide efficient and well-ordered administrative services to The Secret Jungle Project. You'll be educated to GCSE standard or equivalent and be an experienced administrator with good interpersonal skills. A sound knowledge of MS Office is essential. The post requires occasional unsocial hours including weekends and some travel to attend meetings. Hours of work will be 16 per week.

Youth Project Leader

£7,105.62 - £8,094.49 pa Ref: S02010/KOS

Working in The Secret Jungle, you'll set-up and run play activities for disabled children and young people. The sessions will include developing inclusive play opportunities for the local community. Educated to GCSE standard or equivalent, you'll have previous experience working with disabled children or young people and of assisting in planning creative or leisure activities. Hours of work will be 12 per week, to include regular weekend work.

Sessional Youth Project Workers

£8.30 - £9.46 per hour Ref: S02011/KOS

You'll assist in running activity groups for disabled children and support disabled children in taking part in inclusive play sessions. Previous experience of working with children or young people is essential. Hours will be mainly school holidays, after school and weekends on an as and when required basis.

For further information or an informal discussion on the above roles, contact Ivan O'Reilly/Joanna Stirland on 01227 741748. Posts supported by the Big Lottery.

As well as a strong commitment to your development we offer generous holidays, contributory stakeholder pensions, childcare vouchers and flexible working.

To apply, please visit **www.playyourpart.co.uk** or call us on 0121 362 8618 quoting the relevant reference number.

Closing date for all posts: 27th February 2011.

All our recruitment documents are available in alternative formats. Please note CVs will not be accepted.

The Children's Society wants to create a society where children are valued, respected and happy. We are committed to helping disadvantaged and vulnerable young people, including children in care, or those who have run away. We give a voice to disabled children so their needs are met in ways suited to them. Through our work, young carers find time away from their responsibilities, and young refugees have a chance to rebuild their lives in new communities.

Children are at the heart of all we do, and we want to build a better childhood for every child.

Charity Registration No. 221124.

We strive to be an equal opportunities employer

LOTTERY FUNDED

A better childhood. For every child. www.childrenssociety.org.uk

The future of local media

Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

Media Sales Executives - Field Based x2
Full Time permanent - Tunbridge Wells and West Kent
Full Time permanent - Medway

KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.
We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.
Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Telephone Sales Executives x2
Maternity Cover fixed term 12 months
Full Time permanent

If you are highly driven, confident, a self motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, in our fast paced and fun telesales department, then apply.
You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.
We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.
Media experience is not essential as full training will be given.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS
Or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

Sales Manager

The Sales Manager will play a lead role in developing new business and maintaining existing relationships. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of client relationship management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, securing new revenue, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.
The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with excellent sales skills,a self starter; highly motivated and will have excellent verbal and written communication ability.
You will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within media, will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and knowledge of the Kent marketplace would be useful.

Media Sales Executives Tunbridge Wells

KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.
We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.
Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Telephone Sales Executives x2 Ashford

You will play the key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products.
Candidates may possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships.
Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured and positive manner. Your might also be looking to enter media as a career within sale and this would be an excellent starting point.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Christine Davidson, Commercial Director
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
Or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

TRADE SALES MANAGER

To be responsible for the running of our busy Trade Sales Office including processing orders, preparation of orders for production, collating deliveries, customer liaison and credit control. Good keyboard skills, a mature outlook to problem solving and ability to work on own initiative under pressure required.

Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Closing date – 18th February 2011.

Please apply in writing with a CV to
Ron Twyman,
Piper Double Glazing Limited,
140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP
or by e-mail to ron@piperwindows.co.uk.

PIPER FITS FIRST TIME

Alzheimer's & Dementia
SUPPORT SERVICES
Registered Charity Number 1024385

Require a part-time

HELPLINE CO-ORDINTATOR

For the Kent & Medway 24 Hour Dementia Helpline
Fixed term contract to 31st March 2012

Working from home 2 days per week (Thursday & Friday) 9am - 5pm
Escalation cover, evenings 5pm-9pm & every second weekend Saturday & Sunday 9am - 5pm

Take helpline calls 9am – 5pm Thursday & Friday & provide escalation (telephone support)
cover to volunteers evenings and weekends
NVQ 3 in care, Adult protection & MCA advantageous
RATE OF PAY
£8.50 per hour (Thursday & Friday) 9am-5pm, 1/2 hour lunch unpaid
£7.50 paid per evening escalation 5pm-9pm (Thursday & Friday)
£30 per weekend session (Saturday & Sunday inclusive)
Escalation cover does not tie you to a specific place and is covered by mobile phone.

To request an application pack please call 01474 533990
Closing date for completed applications Wednesday 2nd March

Flexi Day Care Assistants

Required For Residential Care Home in Folkestone

We are looking to recruit staff with relevant experience and a minimum of NVQ level 2. Experience caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call **Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager)** on **01303 254019** for further details or email CV to **cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk**

Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

HMT Care is dedicated to the care of people diagnosed within the spectrum of neuro-disability, particularly HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE. We provide an holistic and person-centred approach to care and require dedicated and committed staff to work with us in Herne Bay.

We require **full-time** and **weekend Support Staff**.
Duties will include providing support and day-to-day assistance to residents.

A competitive salary, promotion prospects, accredited specialist training, together with NVQ opportunities, is our commitment to you

Previous experience and qualifications are an advantage
Starting salary £6.48 ph plus weekend increment

To request an application form
please call Rachel on 01227 373586
weekdays between 10am and 4pm

HMT Care

Tel No: 01227 373586 Fax No. 01227 749115

DMS

Experienced Qualified Electrician

Required to work for our family run repairs and cleaning company, covering the whole of Kent.

Also required

Part-Time Bookeeper

Must have experience in company accounts/reports. Wages negotiable for both positions. To become part of a valued team.

Please contact Fiona on 01303 248828

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

St Anne's Convent, Sturry, Canterbury
requires

Part-Time Day Carer

Will be subject to enhanced disclosure

Please contact:
Liz Page on 01227 711 912

WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home.

Full training and support available.
01622 671716

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: **www.jobsforkent.co.uk**

KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01303 817040 | Fax: 01303 817004 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Business ***Ref: SESS09***

Hourly rate: £21.44 - £25.22 (dependent on qualifications and experience)

We are looking to recruit a passionate individual to teach Level 2 Business Studies. The successful candidate will ideally hold a relevant Business qualification and either hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

***CLOSING DATE:* Wednesday 23 February 2011**

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

For an application pack and further details visit **www.midkent.ac.uk** or e mail **job.applications@midkent.ac.uk** Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · RBLI · MidKent College

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LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT
(RELIEF WELFARE ASSISTANT)

Thamesview SCHOOL
with Business and Enterprise status
Headteacher:
Rhiannon Hughes NB.Ed. Hons

28.5 hours a week (5 days)
Term time only - 39 wks per year (includes Staff Development Days)
Kent Salary Scheme 3 points 7-11 (£14,009.00 to £15,984.00 pa)
Pro rata to £9,163.70 - £10,388.87 pa
Plus an additional allowance of £6.50 per day when used in the PD Department

A friendly and adaptable person is required to work with an identified subject area for learning support. In addition, you would provide relief cover for the PD Department in the event of absence, to proactively support students with their learning and welfare needs in order to maximise their levels of achievement and independence. You will be required to undertake moving and handling training, and it would be an advantage to have an interest in, or experience of, working with physically disabled students and a good level of numeracy and literacy (Level 2 or equivalent) is essential.

To apply please submit with your application to Kay Allen, HR Manager, a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position, together with evidence of why you are suitable for the role, and how you have developed your skills in previous roles in readiness for this position.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from our HR Manager by email at k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 8081120.

Closing Date: **21st February 2011**
Interviews: **Week Commencing 28th February 2011**

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure.
Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

Teachers Needed
Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

- ✔ Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities
- ✔ Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
- ✔ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
- ✔ Free use of resource centre
- ✔ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on:
0800 731 6871
or email
enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

CAPITA EDUCATION RESOURCING (Agy)

Committed to equal opportunities

Marlowe Academy

Stirling way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6NB
www.marloweacademy.co.uk

Graduate Teacher Training Programme

Starting 1st July 2011 in the following subject areas:

Mathematics, English and Science

Salary: £15,817

We offer an exciting opportunity to work in Kent's first Academy where we continue to challenge traditional approaches and to drive up standards. Our students are offered innovative and challenging learning experiences. As part of your training package you would be supported by experienced and enthusiastic staff. Candidates must have a degree in a related subject, have left university for at least a year before commencing training, and have some experience of working with children.

Interested?

Then download further information and an application form from our website or contact the Academy. We look forward to hearing from you.

The closing date is: Monday 28th February 2011

Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome.
Please contact Marion Wigington, HR Manager, on 01843 598550
or email marionwigington@marloweacademy.co.uk

The Marlowe Academy is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicants will have to undertake Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB.

St. Lawrence College

CALLING ALL NURSES

Are you thinking about returning to work?
Do you have up to date clinical skills?

Then talk to us as we now have a vacancy in our professional Medical Care Team based here at the College.

St Lawrence College is a co- educational Independent School based in heart of Ramsgate and set within 40 acres of Grounds.

We require a trained Nurse with experience of minor injuries and ideally some immunization / pastoral care / counselling skills & health promotion, to work part time in our School's established medical centre. You will be working with Children from the ages of 3 to 18 years of age.

The hours of work are: 15 per week worked on Mondays, Tuesday & Thursdays 15.30 – 20.30 hours & every third Sunday for on call duties. This is a Term Time position only working for 34 weeks of the year and would ideally suit someone local to the School.

St Lawrence College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all members of staff & volunteers to share this commitment. Appointments are subject to an enhanced CRB Clearance and satisfactory references being obtained.

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity and welcome applicants from all groups and communities.

Closing date for applications: 18th February 2011

Please send your completed application and covering letter together with your current salary level to:
The Human Resources Manager, St Lawrence College
College Road, Ramsgate, Kent. CT11 7AE
Or apply at: vacancies@slcuk.com
www.slc-uk.com

DOVER GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME APPLICATIONS INVITED

We wish to offer the following trainee placements on the Graduate Teacher Programme

Required for September 2011

History, PE and Science

We have a very successful programme of support and qualification for our GTP students which has been enhanced by the excellent links the school has with Canterbury Christchurch University.

If you are enthusiastic and hard working; if you enjoy working with young people; if you relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post, please contact the School Office, on 01304 206117, or email sbarham@dovergramboys.kent.sch.uk, for an application pack.

Closing date for applications is **Friday 25 February 2011**
Interviews will be held on **Friday 4th March 2011**

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01303 817040

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

HEAD OF BUSINESS RELATIONS

Salary Scale: **Basic salary £35k. Target achievement £40k and additional incentive payments up to £10k for 37 hours per week, all year**

The college is looking to recruit a Head of Business Relations to manage a portfolio of existing customers and attract new customers through excellent customer service, sales and effective account management in line with the College business targets and service level agreements.

Job reference: **HBR001**

PROGRAMME LEADER IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Salary Scale: **£29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week, all year**

The college is looking to recruit a Programme Leader in Health and Social Care to ensure a well-organised high quality course or study programme that effectively meets the needs of the students.

The main duties of this role include teaching, tutorial work, curriculum development and planning and to lead a team of staff including coordinating the delivery of courses within the Health and Social Care programme area.

Job reference: **PLH&S001**

Closing date: **16 February 2011**

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

THANET COLLEGE

Apprenticeships

"Raising Aspirations, Developing Skills, Delivering Quality"

Thanet College recruits 'The Apprentice'

FIXED TERM FOR 36 WEEKS

Salary Scale: **£95 per week for 37 hours per week**

Thanet College is delighted to offer opportunities to "earn as you learn".

The Business Development Division is recruiting two Apprentices to work and train at the fantastic new Manston Business Centre alongside experienced staff.

Business Administration Apprentice

The successful applicant will offer administrative support whilst completing on the job training and the following qualifications: NVQ in Business Administration, Technical Certificate and Key Skills in Literacy and Numeracy.

Customer Service Apprentice

The successful applicant will welcome and host customers to the Business Centre whilst completing on the job training and the following qualifications: NVQ in Customer Service, Technical Certificate and Key Skills in Literacy and Numeracy.

If you have a positive approach, good organisational and communication skills and would like to be considered for either of these opportunities:

Apply now!

Closing date: **23 February 2011**

Applicants may be required to attend an Assessment Day on Wednesday 2nd March and may also be required to attend Interview on Tuesday 8th March.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: **APR001**

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

BUSINESS PROGRAMME MANAGER

Salary Scale: **£33,917 per annum for 37 hours per week, all year**

Located at our fantastic new Manston Business Centre we are looking to recruit a Business Programme Manager to be responsible for managing programmes within the business development division and to promote very high standards in a positive and supportive culture that aspires to be outstanding.

Closing date: **Wednesday 23rd February 2011**

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'.

Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: **BPM001**

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | matrix | EMPLOYMENT SOLUTIONS

Tele-Sales Consultant Educational Travel

Churchill House Summer Centres is an expanding business running English Language courses for young international students at residential centres throughout the UK. We need a non-group sales consultant at our Head Office in Ramsgate.

Your customers are agents and parents world wide. You need patience to explain our range of products, subtle negotiating skills to agree a best choice and a passion to win business to close the deal. You have a proven record of telesales success in a similar business (retail travel agency, tour operator), a high level of self-motivation and the capability to build lasting relationships based on trust and integrity.

This is a permanent position with a generous remuneration package tailored to attract the best. Full CV & current salary to: Greg Patton, Churchill House, Spencer Square, Ramsgate, CT11 9EQ greg@churchillhouse.co.uk

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The smart way to find a job in the County

POWERED BY
KOS MEDIA

To advertise in this section ✆ **01303 817040**

JobsforKent.co.uk

A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Accountancy

Book-Keeper/Account Administrator
Marden
Salary Competitive salary
To apply/more information: Kindergarten nicky.peckham@ thekindergartens.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Lettings Administrator
Sittingbourne
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Family Homes sunil.popat@virgin.net
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Part Time Medical Receptionist
Sevenoaks
Salary negoitable
To apply/more information: Town Medical Centre applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales Co-ordinator
Hythe
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: H V Wooding Ltd jolson@hvwooding.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Trade Sales Manager
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Piper Windows piper@piperwindows.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Receptionist / Customer Service
Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@ canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Marketing, Sales and Communication
Canterbury
Salary 14k (starting salary)
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 2010-02

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@ canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary TBC
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@ canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Parish Clerk
Wye
Salary NJC pay rates PARISH CLERKPart-time (18 hrs per week)Flexible, home-based - NJC pay rates This post provides a major opportunity for a forward-looking and committed person to serve the Parish Council at a critical time in Wye's history and to contribute to the successful development of the Council and village alike. The Clerk's work is varied and involves acting on the Council's behalf as its executive and point of contact for the public and all external organisations, as well as servicing its monthly evening meetings and other occasional events. The starting date for the successful candidate is negotiable and will overlap with the present Clerk, who will take up the post of Responsible Financial Officer after a three-month hand-over period. The new Clerk will be given support to work for the CiLCA qualification. Please visit the Parish Council's website www.wyeparish.info for a job description, person specification and application details. Closing date for the receipt of applications is 25th February 2011. Interviews will take place on the evening of Tuesday March 15th 2011. Previous applications will automatically be reconsidered.
To apply/more information: WYE with HINXHILL PARISH COUNCIL wye.parishclerk@btinternet.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Temporary Administrator
Maidstone outskirts
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information: Interpersonnel jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1720

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Business
Medway
Salary £21.44 - £25.22
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: SESS09

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

Temporary Administrator
Maidstone outskirts
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information: Interpersonnel jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1720

Fencing Installers
South East Area
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Pembury Group applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

Chefs and Commis Chefs
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Belgian Cafe culturia@hotmail.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Kitchen Manager
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Old Buttermarket applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chef
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Old Buttermarket applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Child Care

Cover Supervisors
All over Kent
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: London Teaching Pool Ltd kentteam@tltp.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teachers
All Kent
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: London Teaching Pool Ltd kentteam@tltp.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Foster Carers
All kent
Salary £325 per week
To apply/more information: Family Matters Fostering Ltd morag@fml.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

House Guidance & Care Manager
Folkestone
Salary £19,870 pa
To apply/more information: Folkestone Academy sally.taylor@ folkestoneacademy.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teaching Positions
Medway
Salary TBC
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: Gen

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Sales Executive
Rochester
Salary £30K OTE
To apply/more information: Inchoak Office Interiors mhawksworth@inchoak.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Customer Service, Call Centre

Telesales
Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Theme Events sjsainsbury@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: REC500

Receptionist / Customer Service
Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@ canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Operations Manager
Ashford
Salary £28,860 pro rata
To apply/more information: Ashford Mediation Service applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic

Community Carers
Herne Bay
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Enterprising Opportunities M.Hawkes@ enterprisingopps.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Education, Teacher, School

Cover Supervisors
All over Kent
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: London Teaching Pool Ltd kentteam@tltp.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teachers
All Kent
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: London Teaching Pool Ltd kentteam@tltp.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Part-Time Manager
Tunbridge Wells
Salary TBC
To apply/more information: S.Simmonds & Son Ltd marion@simmonds-ltd.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

College Governor
Thanet
Salary Volunteer
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Booke-Keeper/ Account Administrator
Marden
Salary Competitive salary
To apply/more information: Kindergarten nicky.peckham@ thekindergartens.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CDT TEACHER
Medway
Salary TBC
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: CDT

HOME ECONOMICS TEACHER
Medway
Salary TBC
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: HECO

PE TEACHER
Medway
Salary TBC
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: PE

Teaching Positions
Medway
Salary TBC
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: Gen

Graduate Teacher Programme
The Folkestone School for Girls
Salary To be discussed
To apply/more information: Folkestone School For Girls sdunster@ folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KoS

Wellness Coaches
Work from Home
Salary £1000.00+ per mnth
To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Tele-Sales Consultant
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Churchill House School of English gill@churchillhouse.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Nurse
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: St Lawerence College hjs@slcuk.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Pastoral Support Manager (Temporary)
Aylesford
Salary Kent Scheme 6

Jobs by Email

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JobsforKent.co.uk

To apply/more information: Aylesford School - Sports College jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

HEAD OF BUSINESS RELATIONS
Broadstairs
Salary Basic salary £35k
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: HBR001

PROGRAMME LEADER IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
Broadstairs
Salary £29,413 - £34,817
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PLH&S001

Learning Support Assistant
Gravesend
Salary Pro rata to £9,163.70 - £10,388.87 pa
To apply/more information: Thamesview School applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Business
Medway
Salary £21.44 - £25.22
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: SESS09

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Sales Co-ordinator
Hythe
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: H V Wooding Ltd jolson@hvwooding.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Fencing Installers
South East Area
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Pembury Group applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Beauty

Receptionist / Customer Service
Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Health & Safety, Security, Defence

Skippers
Kent
Salary Negoitable
To apply/more information: Gardline Environmental Ltd Calina.wood@gardline.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Able Seamen
Kent
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Gardline Environmental Ltd Calina.wood@gardline.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

HR, Recruitment

HR Administrator
Brandshatch
Salary £18k
To apply/more information: Hand Picked Hotels kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Researchers
Canterbury & Maidstone
Salary £8.50 per hour
To apply/more information: Institute of Occupational Medicine www.iom-world.org/recruitment
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

Inkjet Machine operators
Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Hand workers
Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Production Manager (Mailing)
Tunbridge wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Data and Personalisation Controller
Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Enclosing Machine operators
Tunbridge Wells
Salary £16,000-£30,000pa
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Accounts Assistant
Sevenoaks
Salary £17.5k
To apply/more information: Hand Picked Hotels kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Wellness Coaches
Work from Home
Salary £1000.00+ per mnth
To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Tele-Sales Consultant
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Churchill House School of English gill@churchillhouse.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chefs and Commis Chefs
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Belgian Cafe culturia@hotmail.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Kitchen Manager
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Old Buttermarket applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chef
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Old Buttermarket applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

Production Manager (Mailing)
Tunbridge wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales Co-ordinator
Hythe
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: H V Wooding Ltd jolson@hvwooding.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Skippers
Kent
Salary Negoitable
To apply/more information: Gardline Environmental Ltd Calina.wood@gardline.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

College Governor
Thanet
Salary Volunteer
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Deputy Manager
New Romney
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Sandbanks Care Home adam@belmontsandbanks.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Trade Sales Manager
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Piper Windows piper@piperwindows.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

House Guidance & Care Manager
Folkestone
Salary £19,870 pa
To apply/more information: Folkestone Academy sally.taylor@folkestoneacademy.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Operations Manager
Ashford
Salary £28,860 pro rata
To apply/more information: Ashford Mediation Service applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Assistant Manager
Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

HEAD OF BUSINESS RELATIONS
Broadstairs
Salary Basic salary £35k
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: HBR001

PROGRAMME LEADER IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
Broadstairs
Salary £29,413 - £34,817
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PLH&S001

Marketing, Advertising

Sales Co-ordinator
Hythe
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: H V Wooding Ltd jolson@hvwooding.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Media Sales Executives Field Based
Tunbridge Wells & west Kent
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos003

Marketing, Sales and Communication
Canterbury
Salary 14k (starting salary)
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 2010-02

Operations Manager
Ashford
Salary £28,860 pro rata
To apply/more information: Ashford Mediation Service applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Motor Trade, Driver

Vehicle Technician / Mechanic
Chatham
Salary negotiable
To apply/more information: Hazel Motors applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Night Senior
Dover
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Select Healthcare - Victoria Lodge riverlea@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Night Carer
Rainham
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Hawthorne Residential Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CARERS
Northfleet
Salary £8.00 per hour
To apply/more information: Alzheimers & Dementia Support adminadss@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Part Time Medical Receptionist
Sevenoaks
Salary negoitable
To apply/more information: Town Medical Centre applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Deputy Manager
New Romney
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Sandbanks Care Home adam@belmontsandbanks.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Carers
Herne Bay
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Enterprising Opportunities M.Hawkes@enterprisingopps.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Massage Therapist
Canterbury
Salary 9-18 k per annum + bonuses
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: masthe 001

Receptionist / Customer Service
Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Marketing, Sales and Communication
Canterbury
Salary 14k (starting salary)
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 2010-02

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Psychological Therapist
Ashford PTP
Salary £21,519 - £27,849 pro rata
Psychological Therapist - Fixed Term for 6 months£21,519 - £27,849 pro rata - 20.81 hours per weekEssential Car User Allowance up to £1,239Based Ashford PTP KCA (UK)
Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. We offer a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration, along with opportunities for further training and career development. The Ashford PTP team requires a psychological therapist to work in close collaboration with colleagues in a stepped care service. You will work in surgeries based in the local area and have a commitment to improving access to psychological therapies for people with depression and anxiety. A strong interest in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) would be an advantage. The team also delivers EMDR, Brief Dynamic Interpersonal Therapy for Depression (DIT), Couple Therapy for Depression (CDT) and eligibility and interest in these areas and Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression (IPT) will also be useful. The base is located in the Live It Well Centre, a multi-agency partnership taking referrals from both primary and secondary care. For an informal discussion about the post please contact Liz Hamlin, Clinical Manager IAPT on 01233 639383. Applications and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk. You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote ref: 738.Closing date: 15 February 2011.Interview date: TBCKCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity no: 292824.
To apply/more information: KCA (UK) admin@kca.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 738

Registered Nurse
Nr Sandwich
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: High View Oast Nursing Home highviewoast@new_meronden.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Wellness Coaches
Work from Home
Salary £1000.00+ per mnth
To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Flexi Day Care Assistants
Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Assistant Manager
Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Nurse
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: St Lawerence College hjs@slcuk.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Night Workers
Chatham
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Project for Independant Lifestyle applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domiciliary Care Workers
Canterbury & Thanet
Salary £7.00 per hour **To apply/more information:** Bluebird Care canterbury@bluebirdcare.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

PROGRAMME LEADER IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
Broadstairs
Salary £29,413 - £34,817
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PLH&S001

Support Workers
Sidcup
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Oakfields Care loring@oakfields.net
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Waking Night Staff
Sidcup
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Oakfields Care loring@oakfields.net
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Print, Packaging, Distribution

Inkjet Machine operators
Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Hand workers
Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Production Manager (Mailing)
Tunbridge wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Data and Personalisation Controller
Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Enclosing Machine operators
Tunbridge Wells
Salary £16,000-£30,000pa
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Public Sector, Social Services

Community Carers
Herne Bay
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Enterprising Opportunities M.Hawkes@enterprisingopps.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Night Senior
Dover
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Select Healthcare - Victoria Lodge riverlea@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Night Carer
Rainham
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Hawthorne Residential Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CARERS
Northfleet
Salary £8.00 per hour
To apply/more information: Alzheimers & Dementia Support adminadss@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cover Supervisors
All over Kent
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: London Teaching Pool Ltd kentteam@tltp.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teachers
All Kent
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: London Teaching Pool Ltd kentteam@tltp.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Foster Carers
All kent
Salary £325 per week
To apply/more information: Family Matters Fostering Ltd morag@fml.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Book-Keeper/Account Administrator
Marden
Salary Competitive salary
To apply/more information: Kindergarten nicky.peckham@thekindergartens.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Deputy Manager
New Romney
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Sandbanks Care Home adam@belmontsandbanks.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Carers
Herne Bay
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Enterprising Opportunities M.Hawkes@enterprisingopps.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Psychological Therapist
Ashford PTP
Salary £21,519 - £27,849 pro rata
To apply/more information: KCA (UK) admin@kca.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 738

Parish Clerk
Wye
Salary NJC pay rates
To apply/more information: WYE with HINXHILL PARISH COUNCIL wye.parishclerk@btinternet.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Baljit Singh Hayre of 29 Overcliffe, Gravesend, DA11 0EH has applied to Gravesham Borough Council for the grant of New Premises License. Provision of live music, recorded music, indoor sporting events, late night refreshment and supply of alcohol. Proposed hours: Live music 18.00-23.00 All the others 11.00-00.00 for the premises The Elephants Head situated at 106 London Road, Northfleet, DA11 9LZ.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/licensing or at the Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU tel. 01474 337334 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 2nd March 2011.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representation will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Brands Hatch Circuit, Fawkham, Longfield**

Applicant: **Mr Mike Groves**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Solton Manor, East Langdon, Dover**

Applicant: **Perry Mercer**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Mark Diessner of Court Farm Barn, Yelsted Lane, Stockbury to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address

Giles Adey, Head of Registration,
Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

LICENSING ACT 2003
APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

I, Michael Derric Clark hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House King Street Maidstone Kent ME15 6JQ for the variation of a premises license to add the following licensable activities to the premises licence; 1. The sale of alcohol by retail for consumption off the premises. In respect of the premises situated at 71 Union Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1ED and to be known by the sign of Pizzaboy. The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Maidstone Borough Council Maidstone House King Street Maidstone Kent ME15 6JQ between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m (Monday to Friday except public holidays) www.maidstone.gov.uk. Interested parties and responsible authorities may make representation concerning this application in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later that 4th March 2011. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.
Stephen Thomas LAW Solicitors
8 Grassmere Leybourne West Malling
Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants T311739

To advertise in this section ✆ 01303 817040

Highways – District of Canterbury

B2068 STONE STREET, PETHAM, CANTERBURY (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a Temporary Mandatory Speed Limit of 40 mph on B2068 Stone Street, Petham, Canterbury, on or after 28 February 2011 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The section of road affected is between the junction with Chequers Hill and the existing 40 mph / National Speed Limit to the south east of the junction with Chartham Downs Road, when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

Highways – District of Shepway

(EAST AND NORTH EAST FOLKESTONE AREAS) (WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under 1, 2(4) and part IV of Schedule 9 section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will prohibits any person to cause any vehicle capable of exceeding 7.5 tonnes gross weight from using the following roads subject to exemptions for loading and unloading, emergency service vehicles and public service vehicles:-

Name of Road	Length of road affected
Wear Bay Road	From a point 10 metres east of the junction with
Hollands Avenue	Entire length
Whitecliffe Way	Entire length
Warren Way	Entire length
Warren Close	Entire length
Neason Way	Entire length
Thanet	Entire length
Hasborough Road	Entire length
Varne Place	Entire length
Varne Road	Entire length
Wear Bay Crescent	Entire length
Seagrave Crescent	Entire length
Seagrave Road	Entire length
Penfold Road	Entire length
Burrow Road	Entire length
Foreland Avenue	Entire length
Warren Road	From a point 10 metres west of the junction with Brady Road to the junction with Foreland Avenue
Radnor Bridge Road	From the junction with Ryland Place to the junction with Wear Bay Road

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm, at Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford and at Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order, you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to Highway Services, Transport and Development, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.dover.shepway@kent.gov.uk by noon on 6 March 2011.

VARIOUS ROADS, ROMNEY MARSH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of bridge inspections, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Romney Marsh, on or after 14 February 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

Each road will be closed for 1 day, on or after the date shown, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

Wenham's Lane, Old Romney will be closed at Yoakes Bridge on 14 February 2011.

The alternative route is via Eighteen Acre Lane, A259 Rhee Wall, A2070, Ivychurch Road and Wenham's Lane.

Gammons Farm Lane, Newchurch will be closed at Blackmanstone Bridge on 15 February.

The alternative route is via the road linking St Mary's Road with Newchurch and the road linking Newchurch with Lower Wall Road.

The **un-named road** between **Turnagate Cottage** and **Ashford Road** will be closed at Star Inn Bridge on 16 February.

The alternative route is via School Road and St Mary's Road.

Highways – District of Sevenoaks

BRASTED LANE, KNOCKHOLT - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Brasted Lane, Knockholt between Stoneings Lane and Main Road.

The Order will become effective on 28th February 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Stoneings Lane and Main Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a replacement pole and transfer of power cables.

COOPERS LANE, PENSHURST - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Coopers Lane, Penshurst for 500m from Hamsell Oast in a south westerly direction.

The Order will become effective on 28th February 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 4th March 2011 and last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Poundsbridge Hill and Coopers Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching and kerb installation.

HIGH STREET, EDENBRIDGE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, Edenbridge outside number 88.

The Order will become effective on 14th February 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Mont St Aignan Way and High Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate sewer works.

HIGH STREET, EYNSFORD - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on High street, Eynsford between Priory Lane and Bower Lane.

The Order will become effective on 28th February 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 nights between 21.00 – 05.00 hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: A225 Eynsford Road, A20 to Wrotham, A227 Borough Green Road/Wrotham Road, Western Road, A25 to Sevenoaks and A225 to Eynsford.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of high friction surfacing and carriageway markings.

Highways – Borough of Tonbridge and Malling

(BACK LANE & COMMON ROAD, IGHTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Back Lane and Common Road on or after Monday 14th February 2011 for a period of up to 14 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via A25 Sevenoaks Road, Sevenoaks Road, A227 Tonbridge Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to lay a new main. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Terry Kennedy on 01634 873095.

(BASTED LANE, BOROUGH GREEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Basted Lane outside of Landway Farm on or after Monday 28th February 2011 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Winfield Lane, Bourne Lane, Dux Hill, Dux Lane, Long Mill Lane, Basted Lane.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to enable duct installation. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Kenton Stewart on 01795 435729.

KATHERINE KERSWELL
GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR
County Hall,
Maidstone,
Kent
ME14 1XX

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

HIGHWAYS – District of Swale

BREACH LANE, UPCHURCH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a structural bridge inspection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Breach Lane, Upchurch, on or after 6 March 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

It is planned the works will be carried out from Sunday 6 March 2011 at 9.00 pm until Monday 7 March 2011 at 5.00 am.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge. There will be no access for through traffic between the A2 and the junction with School Lane.

The alternative route is via A2 Hartlip Hill, London Road, Church Lane, School Lane and Boxted Lane.

PRIORY ROAD, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new water meter and associated pipework, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Priory Road, Faversham, on or after 23 February 2011 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Dark Hill and Davington Hill.

SEED ROAD, NEWNHAM & HOPES HILL, DODDINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is given that because of water mains replacement works, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Seed Road, Newnham and Hopes Hill, Doddington, on or after 14 February 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

SEED ROAD will be closed between the junctions with Hopes Hill and Foxen Road from 14 February 2011 for up to 2 weeks.

The alternative route is via Hopes Hill, The Street, Doddington Lane and The Street.

HOPES HILL will be closed for its entire length from 14 March 2011 for up to 2 weeks.

The alternative route is via The Street, Doddington Lane, The Street and Seed Road.

TONGE ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is given that because of gas mains replacement works, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tonge Road, Sittingbourne, on or after 14 February 2011 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of All Saints Road for a distance of approximately 26 metres eastwards.

The alternative route is via Tonge Road, Murston Road, A2 Canterbury Road, Fox Hill, The Street, Hempstead Lane, Lower Road and Lomas Road.

For further information please contact Kent Highway serviceson 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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Fiat lifts the roof off 500C

First **Drive**

by **IAIN DOOLEY**

Fiat **500C Arbath**

SOMETIMES it takes a clever piece of technology or simply a particular engine to make you look at a car in a different light.

In the case of Fiat's 500, the Italian firm's Twinair two-cylinder petrol engine is a revelation. Delivering low emissions and fuel consumption with the energy and character of its pioneering predecessor, the two-pot 500 is a joy to drive.

At the other end of the performance spectrum is the 500C Abarth. Fans of the 500 will instantly be familiar with the Abarth's go-faster connotations. In a nutshell, the tuning sub-brand offers affordable sporting thrills thanks to a range of well judged upgrades – not a million miles from Abarth's roots.

The 500 Abarth isn't an entirely new concept. You've been able to buy such a car for some time. What you haven't been able until recently is buy one in convertible form. As if a 140 horsepower 500 wasn't decedent enough, Fiat have cut the roof off.

Strictly speaking, the 500C boasts a roll back roof, as the car retains the door frame structure of its tin-top relative. This fabric cover can be electrically wound back the car's full length, includes a heated glass screen and offers near-hatchback levels of refinement when in place.

Feisty

Somehow, even though a hatchback Abarth exists, it's hard not to be charmed by the 500C model and its enhanced features. Certainly, with the roof down, it's easier to hear the car's feisty engine thanks in part to a pair of oversize exhaust pipes.

Those pipes join a modest but purposeful bodykit, chunky steering wheel, supportive sports seats, stylish alloy wheels and, crucially, retuned suspension settings.

Ah yes, the main reason for buying the 500C Abarth is its performance potential. And while it won't worry the genuine hot hatchbacks occupying higher price points, the usable and accessible nature of this 500's performance is not to be sneezed at.

The 1.4-litre turbo petrol motor might 'only' produce 140 horsepower, but in a car this size that's plenty. This rev-happy engine snarls its way around the rev counter, emitting a buzzy, impatient sound that's highly addictive.

In an unusual move, the 500C Abarth comes with a semi-auto gearbox complete with steering wheel paddleshifters. It's unusual for two reasons: such technology isn't cheap yet Fiat has managed to position the car competitively, plus this technology always divides opinion.

Luddites will bemoan the lack of a clutch pedal – the 500's gearbox is essentially a manual 'box with the clutch action controlled electronically. In practice, leaving the car in Auto mode does require the driver to second-guess shift points and feather the throttle accordingly. And yes, that does take practice.

However, stick the car in manual mode and you have full control over gear changes. This is by far a more rewarding experience, and it doesn't take long before you're zipping up and down the gears with those deliciously weighted paddles.

Better still is the car's Sport mode, which adds more weight to the steering and sharpens the combined responses of the engine and gearbox. Frankly, this can be left engaged all the time; far from turning the 500C into a temperamental trackday monster, the sharper responses are welcome. Gearchanges feel crisper and there's an audible change in the 500's exhaust note, giving it a 'big car' sound.

In short, it's a hoot to drive. With no shortage of power, the 500C Abarth growls and screams its way from gear to gear, corner to corner. For a small car with sports suspension its ride is surprisingly supple, too. Grip that chunky steering wheel and, while more communication would be nice, there's no question mark over the car's ability to go where you point it.

On a basic level the 500C Abarth displays an edgy character the regular 500 lacks. Not everyone wants a bulging bodykit and a beefy exhaust, which is why so many regular 500s have found homes.

But that 'edge' is precisely what the 500 needs to appeal to a section of the buying public seeking a fun, small car with genuine talent. It's easy for car makers to bolt on go-faster bits to create the illusion of enhanced performance. Fiat has done a thorough job with this 500C – something Abarth fans can be proud of.

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10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY3DR, Silver Lightning, 2,045 miles	£8995	£8750
10 10	CORSA 1.3 CDTI ENERGY 3DR, Glacier White, 2,800 miles	£10995	£10395
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 5DR, Metro Blue, 2,925 miles	£9995	£9495
10 10	CORSA 1.4 SE 5DR, Beach Green, 4,740 miles	£10995	£10495
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Star Silver, Del miles	£9495	£8995
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles	£9495	£8995
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Silver Lake, Del miles	£9495	£8995
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, White, 2,734 miles	£8995	£8795
ASTRA SELECTION		**WAS**	**NOW**
10 10	ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 5,010 miles	£11495	£9995
10 10	ASTRA 1.8 SRI X PACK 3DR, Black Sapphire, 3,490 miles	£13995	£11995
10 10	ASTRA 2.0 CDTI SRI 5DR, Black Sapphire, 3,330 miles	£18995	£17995
10 10	NEW ASTRA 1.7 CDTI SRI 5DR, Power Red, 4,880 miles	£15995	£14995
10 10	ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIVE AUTO 5DR, Silver Lake, 1,100 miles	£14995	£12995
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10 10	ASTRA 1.4 SPORT SPORTS HATCH 3DR, Power Red, 2,065 miles	£11995	£10995
10 10	NEW ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Black Sapphire, 2,210 miles	£13995	£11975
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10 10	ZAFIRA 1.8 ENERGY 5DR, Sovereign Silver, 1,570 miles	£13995	£12995
10 10	ZAFIRA 1.8 ENERGY 5DR, Black Sapphire, 4,325 miles	£13995	£12995
10 10	ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE A/C 5DR, Ultra Blue, 4,690 miles	£12995	£11995
10 10	ZAFIRA 1.7 CDTI ENERGY 5DR, Star Silver, 2,390 miles	£14995	£14695
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10 10	INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 6,395 miles	£15495	£14995
10 10	INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Black Sapphire, 10,180 miles	£14995	£14475
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10 10	COMBO 1.3 CDTI 5DR, White, 17,005 miles	£7995+VAT	£7495+VAT
10 10	COMBO VAN 1.2 5DR, Galcier White, Del miles	£8995+VAT	£8495+VAT
10 10	NEW MOVANO 2.3 5DR, Halo Silver, Del Miles	£17995+VAT	£16995+VAT
10 10	VIVARO LWB 2.0 5DR, Glacier White, 7,350 miles	£11995+VAT	£11495+VAT
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55 FORD FOCUS PETROL HATCHBACK ZETEC (2005) 5 DR HATCHBACK 2.0 DURATEC 145 PS STA 12414 MILES	£5999	£3999	£2000
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES	£9499	£7999	£1500
58 FORD FOCUS DIESEL ESTATE 1.8 TDCI ZETEC 5DR (2008 - 2009) 20429 MILES	£9999	£8499	£1500
09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR (2008 - 2010) 18890 MILES	£11999	£9999	£2000
09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [110] [DPF] (2008 -) 18164 MILES	£11999	£10499	£1500
08 FORD FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 3DR 0 MILES	£13999	£13299	£700
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES	£8999	£7999	£1000
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES	£8799	£7799	£1000
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 STYLE 5DR (2008 -) 14960 MILES	£7999	£6999	£1000
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES	£8799	£7799	£1000
10 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI ZETEC S 5DR (2008 - 2010) 18440 MILES	£16999	£15599	£1400
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES	£7999	£6499	£1500
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES	£7999	£6499	£1500
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES	£7999	£6999	£1000
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.6 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14476 MILES	£7999	£6999	£1000
07 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES	£7799	£6999	£800
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 2.0 ZETEC 5DR AUTO (2007 - 2010) 17012 MILES	£7999	£6999	£1000
59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 82PS STAGE V (-) 12705 MILES	£8999	£7499	£1500
59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 60PS STAGE V (-) 12314 MILES	£8999	£7499	£1500
59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 60PS STAGE V (-) 12314 MILES	£8999	£7499	£1500
10 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR	£11999	£10499	£1500
56 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE]	£5999	£5499	£500
57 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 3DR [CLIMATE]	£5999	£5499	£500
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK EDGE (2009) 5 DR 1.4 68PS TDCI (-) 14130 MILES	£11999	£10499	£1500
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ZETEC S (2010.5) 3 DR 1.6TDCI 90PS STAGE V (-) 16315 MILES	£12999	£11999	£1000
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ECONETIC (2009) 5 DR 1.6 TDCI 90 + DPF (-) 15188 MILES	£12999	£11999	£1000
57 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] (2005 - 2008) 9655 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
58 FORD KA 1.2 STYLE+ 3DR	£7499	£6999	£500
09 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.2 TDCI TITANIUM X 5DR (2008 - 2010) 27091 MILES	£13999	£12999	£1000
09 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM X 5DR (2007 - 2010) 23205MILES	£13999	£12999	£1000
59 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [140] AUTO (2008 - 2010) 25236 MILES	£13499	£12799	£700
57 FORD MONDEO PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE () 5 DR 1.6 DURATEC 125PS (-) 14438 MILES	£8499	£7999	£1000
57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + (2007.25) 5-DR 1.6 100PS (-) 12317 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK ZETEC (2006) 5-DR AUTO 1.6 100PS (-) 10750 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR 0 MILES	£11999	£9999	£2000
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500
05 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 5DR	£5999	£4999	£1000
56 VOLVO V50 2.0D SPORT 5DR [EURO 4]	£9999	£8999	£1000
53 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8I LS 5DR	£4499	£3499	£1000
07 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE 4DR	£5999	£4999	£1000
56 CITROEN C1 1.0I RHYTHM 3DR	£5999	£5199	£800
06 KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.1 LX 5DR AUTO (2004 - 2006) 6218 MILES	£4499	£3999	£500
57 DAIHATSU SIRION 1.0 SE 5DR	£5999	£4999	£1000
10 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR (2008 - 2010) 21556 MILES	£21999	£20999	£1000
03 MG ZR 1.8 120 + 3DR STEP AUTO	£2999	£2699	£300
57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + (2007.25) 5-DR 1.6 100PS (-) 12317 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
02 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [110] [EURO 4] [CLIMATE PACK]	£5999	£4999	£1000
08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR	£11999	£9999	£2000
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500

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FIRST GEAR

New, sleek C-Class is licensed to grille

A NUMBER of enhancements have been made to the Mercedes-Benz C-Class saloon and estate for the 2011 model year.

A more pronounced grille, revised bumpers front and rear plus features like LED lights bring it into the line with the appearance of the bigger E-Class.

All models now feature an aluminium bonnet which helps to reduce overall mass.

Changes on the inside include a refreshed dashboard, with smart, galvanised control buttons and the display screen integrates more neatly with the rest of the instrument panel.

Underneath the slicker skin, the engine range has been revised with improvements and efficiency gains across the range.

The 3.5-litre petrol V6 engine is also new, and combines strong outputs and impressive acceleration with a remarkable fuel economy figure of 41.5mpg combined.

The most frugal diesel unit can now deliver 64mpg combined and C02 figures of just 117g/km, thanks to the standard fitment of a start/stop system among other changes.

The 2011 C-Class goes on sale in March, with pricing details yet to be announced.

Lexus Lifestyle perfect for outdoor pursuits

LEXUS has fettled a special Lifestyle version of its RX full hybrid SUV for some of the rigours of winter with a package of accessories suited for those who love the great outdoors.

On the outside the new Lifestyle model comes equipped with roof rails and a rear bumper protect, plus front and rear under-run plates.

Inside there is a tough boot liner ready to cope with muddy boots, plus a refrigerated cool box that can equally keep food and drinks warm when the temperatures plummet.

Specified individually, these features would cost up to £1,500, but brought together for the new RX 450h SE-I Lifestyle they add just £499 to the on-the-road price, which is from £48,899.

Peugeot unveils its CO2 busting 508

AHEAD of the Paris Motor Show, Peugeot has unveiled its replacement for the 407 saloon and estate models.

The French car maker's 508 will appear in the UK early next year, and company bosses are hoping the car's new look and a greater focus on economy and low CO2 will help attract buyers.

With one eye on the affordable premium market, the 508 also boasts high levels of refinement and a noticeable step up in terms of build quality.

With its new corporate nose design and sleek profile, both the 508 saloon and its SW load-lugger cousin continue the design theme started by the sporty RCZ coupe.

Alongside the usual array of features inside a car associated with a mid-size model – plush trim, decent audio, electric almost everything – the 508 showcases Peugeot's diesel engine stop-start feature plus a full-blown diesel-electric hybrid powertrain.

With the combination of a 1.6-litre diesel engine and six-speed manual gearbox, the 508's 'e-HDi' system will deliver 114g/km CO2 at launch and 109g/km later in 2011 after a series of interim improvements.

Peugeot's foray into hybrid territory should see even greater reductions, thanks to the combination of a diesel engine up front and an electric motor powering the rear wheels. With the potential of 200hp, all-wheel drive and greatly reduced emissions of 99g/km CO2 are promised.

Fuel consumption figures for Saab 9-3 Diesel Saloon Range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 36.7 – 49.6 (7.7 – 5.7), Extra-urban 60.1 – 72.4 (4.7 – 3.9), Combined 48.7 – 62.8 (5.8 – 4.5). CO_2 emissions 153 – 119g/km.

Offer available to business users for orders received by 31.03.11. £294 monthly figure is based on a 9-3 Turbo Edition Saloon 1.9TTiD (180PS) Manual on a non-maintenance contract hire package over 36 months, 10,000 contract miles per year. Advance payment equal to 3 monthly payments is payable followed by 35 monthly payments. Excess mileage charge applies if contract mileage is exceeded. For full terms and conditions and specification please refer to the Saab Great Britain Limited Master Agreement and your local dealer. All quotations are subject to availability, status and agreement. Free metallic paint is only available in conjunction with the Saab Great Britain Limited offer and applies to selected models only. Guarantees may be required. Terms are unavailable to existing customers under specific end-user terms with Saab Great Britain Limited. Details correct at time of publication and may vary, eg if list price changes. Saab Great Britain Limited does not offer tax advice to individuals: company car drivers should consult their accountant on their tax position. Contract hire by ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Saab Contract Hire, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. On the road prices include number plates, delivery, Road Fund Licence, first registration fee and VAT. Excludes fuel and insurance. Model shown is a 9-3 Turbo Edition Saloon 1.9TTiD (180PS) Manual at £23,484.79 OTR with optional metallic paint at £536.17 and TX Design Pack at £607.66. **119g/km CO2 emissions relates to MY11 9-3 manual Saloon engines only and excludes the 1.9TTiD (180PS) Aero model. †Exempt from first years road tax.

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First Drive

by MATT JOY

Nissan Micra

New Micra stands out in the supermini crowd

IT MAY not appear so at first glance, but the Nissan Micra is something of an automotive dynasty.

Unlike most Japanese cars, the Micra in all its previous guises had proper longevity: the first and second generation stuck around for a decade apiece while the outgoing one is still selling well in its seventh year. It can also stake a claim for being one of the most driven cars on the planet, as its total user-friendliness made it a popular driving school steed.

Most crucially for a private buyer, it also came with the promise of bulletproof reliability.

So the new one has quite a reputation to live up to. It also has to overcome a slight problem the old one had, namely that one half of the population saw it as something of a girlie car.

That explains why the new Micra looks a little more conservative in comparison. It's as neatly styled as ever, of course, although less radical than before, it shares the non-threatening look that many drivers find appealing.

Compared to the rest of the supermini crowd, the Micra stands out by virtue of its simplicity.

You can count on the same approach on the inside, too. Uncomplicated is the best way of summing it up, although that's not a euphemism for a lack of equipment. Slide behind the wheel and it won't take more than 30 seconds to locate all the switches and controls. If you really want to you could chuck the handbook out of the window and never miss it.

This approach doesn't make it dull to look at either. The heating and ventilation controls are grouped in a circular manner in the centre of the dashboard, while the chunky steering wheel and clear instruments show some flair. Unlike some rivals, the Micra can also be specified with a different trim colour, and in this guise the dash of contrast brightens up the view.

NEXT GENERATION: Nissan Micra – new supermini, now in generation four, adds to the transformation of Nissan's image from staid and reliable to far more adventurous

Nissan has gone heavy with the technology too, even if the Micra doesn't shout about it. Just like the old car it can be specified with keyless entry and start, still a rarity in this class.

There's also a parking guidance system which will check the spaces between cars parked at the side of the road and tell you whether the car will fit or not – useful for those moments of indecisiveness. Every model comes with ESP too, which is an option costing several hundreds on many rivals but is worth ten times as much when it does its job.

It's clever where you can't see it too, with a new platform that contributes significantly to the Micra being lighter than its predecessor, despite better crash performance. Simple ideas like the boomerang shape in the roof add strength and therefore refinement, but without a weight penalty. It's this kind of thinking that bodes well.

Fire up the Micra and the first thing you notice is the distinctive thrum of the new engine. The 1.2-litre petrol unit has three rather than four cylinders, and to these ears at least, this is a welcome change.

Less cylinders means less weight and a keenness to rev, both of which help in a city car, but despite the size it has 79bhp and a thrifty 115g/km. Next year there will be a supercharged version with almost 100bhp but with even better emission and economy figures – hence Nissan's decision that a diesel version isn't required.

Once you get your head around that it's hard not to agree. Even this lower-output 1.2 is more than enough to pull the Micra along easily, whether mated to the five-speed manual or the new CVT transmission. It's brisk enough and, as you'd expect, a cinch to drive, with the kind of accuracy and good weighting that has become something of a Japanese trademark.

Refinement is right up there too, with the suspension being tuned to deal with urban scars rather than hairpin turns and rightly so. It can handle the bends, but in truth almost all buyers will spend their time on tougher streets.

There is good space in the Micra too, with tweaks to the body shape designed to increase rear headroom, and the simple dashboard design leaves more room for legs. The boot is respectable considering the compact exterior, but dropping the seats brings not only tons of space but a flat floor, too.

Understandably Nissan has stuck with a successful recipe. The latest Micra is a very honest car and doesn't pretend to be something it's not, but the quality of the engineering underneath makes it a quality car to own, and the supercharged version coming next year might just be the car that leaves its supermini rivals way behind.

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CITROËN DS3

2010 (10) DS3 1.4 DSign £10,495
Thorium Grey, power steering, radio/CD player

2010 (59) DS3 1.6i 16V DSport 150hp £13,995
Black with White Roof, 17" Silver alloy wheels

2010 (10) DS3 1.6HDI 90hp DStyle £13,495
Sport yellow with black roof, 17" black alloy wheels, city signature pack including rear parking sensors, armrest, climate control, light sensitive headlamps, rain sensitive wipers, folding mirrors etc

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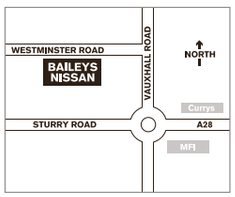

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TOYOTA

2007 (07) TOYOTA PRIUS T SPIRIT VVTI 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles	£12,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA AURIS T SPIRIT VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles	£8,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles	£8,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles	£8,995
2006 (56) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOON BLUE, 13000 miles	£7,995
2008 (08) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, VENETIAN SILVER, 13000 miles	£7,995
2005 (05) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 9000 miles	£7,995
2005 (54) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles	£7,495
2006 (06) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVTI 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles	£7,495
2006 (56) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVTI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles	£6,995
2006 (55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVTI 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles	£6,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles	£6,995
2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVTI 3DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 5000 miles	£6,995
2006(06) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVTI 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1150 miles	£6,995
2006 (06) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 24000 miles	£6,495
2006 (06) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVTI 5DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 8000 miles	£6,295
2006 (06) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVTI 3DR HATCH, BLACK, 29000 miles	£5,495

NISSAN

2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles	£15,995
2009 (59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA AWD 5DR TS HATCH AUTO 4x4, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles	£15,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 5DR HWD HATCH 4x4, BLACK, 2000 miles	£13,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles	£11,995
2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles	£11,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles	£13,995
2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH, CAFFE LATTE, 16000 miles	£12,995
2010 (60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 1000 miles	£12,995
2007 (07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 38000 miles	£10,995
2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles	£9,995
2008 (58) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 7000 miles	£8,495
2008 (58) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles	£8,495
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 10000 miles	£5,995
2007 (07) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles	£6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA PLUS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles	£5,995
2010 (59) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles	£8,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 11000 miles	£5,495
2006 (55) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles	£5,995
2005 (05) NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles	£4,995
2008 (08) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, SPRAM BLUE, 11000 miles	£5,495
2005 (05) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH, WHITE, 10000 miles	£3,995

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 900 miles	£15,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles	£9,995
2010 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles	£9,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 3000 miles	£9,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles	£8,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles	£8,495
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles	£7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 19000 miles	£6,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles	£5,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles	£5,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, [illegible], 14000 miles	£5,495
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles	£5,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles	£7,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, SILVER, 14000 miles	£6,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 15000 miles	£6,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles	£6,995
2006 (06) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles	£5,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 16000 miles	£5,495
2006 (06) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles	£3,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles	£12,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles	£10,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN DIRECT MPV AUTO, BLUE, 400 miles	£10,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles	£8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles	£8,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles	£7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 9000 miles	£7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 10000 miles	£7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles	£7,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL AGILA CLUB MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles	£7,495
2007 (07) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 16000 miles	£6,995
2006 (56) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles	£3,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 75000 miles	£3,995

CHRYSLER

2007 (57) CHRYSLER PT CRUISER LIMITED 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles	£6,995

PEUGEOT

2010 (60) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ARYSS BLUE, 750 miles	£10,995
2010 (10) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles	£9,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles	£8,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles	£8,995
2006 (06) PEUGEOT 307 SW S ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles	£7,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles	£7,995
2008 (08) PEUGEOT 207 S 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles	£7,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 207 S 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 10000 miles	£6,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles	£5,995
2007 (07) PEUGEOT 207 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 17000 miles	£5,495
2007 (07) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 2TRONIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles	£5,495

MITSUBISHI

2007 (57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles	£6,995

HONDA

2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 29000 miles	£17,995
2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 15000 miles	£11,995
2006 (06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 34000 miles	£11,995
2009 (09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles	£10,995
2009 (09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles	£10,995
2009 (09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles	£10,995
2007 (07) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 6000 miles	£9,995
2006 (56) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 18000 miles	£8,495
2005 (05) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 30000 miles	£5,995
2006 (06) HONDA CIVIC SE EXECUTIVE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 49000 miles	£4,995

MERCEDES

2006 (06) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 30000 miles	£10,995
2007 (07) MERCEDES-BENZ E CLASS E200K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 55000 miles	£13,995
2008 (08) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£13,995
2010 (60) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOUNTAIN GREY, 1610 miles	£13,995
2008 (08) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE LIFE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles	£11,995
2007 (07) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles	£9,995
2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles	£9,995
2007 (56) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles	£8,995
2002 (02) MERCEDES-BENZ SLK SLK230 KOMPRESSOR CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 38000 miles	£7,995

VOLKSWAGEN

2006 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles	£11,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles	£9,995
2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles	£9,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles	£8,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN JETTA S TDI TD SALOON AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles	£8,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO E (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1400 miles	£8,995
2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£8,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£7,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO E 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles	£7,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 10000 miles	£7,495
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO E 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 22000 miles	£5,995
2003 (03) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 50000 miles	£3,995

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA AWD 5DR TS HATCH AUTO 4x4, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles	£15,995
2009 (09) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles	£15,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles	£12,995

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS

2000 (W) JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 TD SALOON, RED, 75000 miles	£7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL MERIVA ENERGY CDTI TD MPV, BLACK, 38000 miles	£5,995
2005 (05) HYUNDAI MATRIX CLASSIC MPV, BLACK, 6000 miles	£5,995
2008 (08) RENAULT TWINGO DYNAMIQUE 3DR HATCH, ORANGE, 10000 miles	£4,495
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVTI 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 33000 miles	£3,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles	£3,495
2007 (07) FIAT PANDA DYNAMIC 5DR HATCH, GREY, 8000 miles	£3,995
2007 (07) KIA PICANTO LX 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles	£3,995
2005 (05) PEUGEOT 206 CC SILVER COUPE, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 27000 miles	£4,995
2003 (03) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH, BLACK, 21000 miles	£2,995
2005 (05) VAUXHALL AGILA ENJOY 16V TWINPORT MPV, GOLD, 20000 miles	£2,995
2003 (03) FORD FOCUS GHIA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 40000 miles	£2,995
2004 (04) PEUGEOT 206 SE 5DR HATCH, MOONSTONE SILVER, 36000 miles	£2,995
2001 (51) SKODA FABIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH, YELLOW, 34000 miles	£2,495

SKODA

2008(58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles	£8,995

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Motability

Vehicles shown feature metallic paint at extra cost (Spark, Aveo at £375 and Cruze, Captiva at £410). 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment for a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. *Savings shown are against recommended retail price at time of publication. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr: Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 47.9 (5.9). CO2 emissions 140g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5-seat: Urban - 32.1 (8.8), Extra-urban - 45.6 (6.2), Combined - 39.2 (7.2). CO2 emissions 191g/km. Cruze 1.6 S 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO2 emissions 159g/km. Spark 1.2 LT 5dr: Urban - 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban - 67.3 (4.2), Combined - 55.4 (5.1). CO2 emissions 119g/km.

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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint at extra cost (Spark, Aveo at £375 and Cruze, Captiva at £410). Available at participating Dealers only. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Offer available on all retail registrations from 1st January 2011 to 5th April 2011. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment for a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. *The 5 year warranty previously only available when paying full retail price is now available on all vehicle sales. †Savings shown are against recommended retail price at time of publication. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes. (Chev106820)

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr: Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 47.9 (5.9). CO_2 emissions 140g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5-seat: Urban - 32.1 (8.8), Extra-urban - 45.6 (6.2), Combined - 39.2 (7.2). CO_2 emissions 191g/km. Cruze 1.6 S 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO_2 emissions 159g/km. Spark 1.2 LT 5dr: Urban - 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban - 67.3 (4.2), Combined - 55.4 (5.1). CO_2 emissions 119g/km.

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Estate , Blue , Turbo Diesel 1984cc , 6-Speed Manual, 92000 Miles

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07 57 Seat Leon 1.9 Reference TDi 5dr Hatchback
Black, Turbo Diesel 1896cc, 5-Speed Manual, 73000 miles

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05 05 Mitsubishi Evo 2.0 FQ-340 IX4 GSR 380 BHP
35,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, Body Kit, EM, CD, Leather, Alloys, Flame Red

ESTATES, MPV'S & 4x4'S

07 57 Seat Alhambra 2.0 Tdi Reference Est, 7 seats, 6sp, 1 owner, 92,000 mile, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, immob, EW, CD, Met Blue £7,995
08 58 Ford Focus 1.8 TD Style 5dr Est, 1 owner, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, in met black £7,495
08 08 Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi Style Est, 1 owner, 64000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, Met Grey £6,695
07 57 Peugeot 307 1.6 HDi Est, 1 owner, 88,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, cruise, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, alloys, in Met Red £5,995
05 55 Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi Ghia Est, 6sp, 2 owners, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, e/w, CD, alloys, in silver £4,695
07 07 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CTDI Club Est, 1 Owner, FSH, AC, Cruise, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EM, CD, Met Silver £4,495
01 51 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 SE Auto Est, 2 Owners, 83,000 miles, FSH, Climate, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EM, Htd Seats, CD, Met Green £2,995

SALOONS, SPORTS & PRESTIGE

08 08 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2.0 TDi SE EST, 1 owner, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, E/W, Htd seats, R/C/Locking, Immob, CD, Leather, Alloys, In Black £8,495
06 06 SAAB 9-3 2.0 VECTOR SEMI-AUTO 175 BHP 2dr Convertible, 1 Owner, 55k, FDSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, Cruise, R/C/Locking, Immob, E/W, CD, E/Hood, Leather, Alloys in Parchment Silver £7,295
05 05 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 Bertone Turbo Convertible, 28,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, Cruise, RCL, Immob, EW, Htd Seats, Alloys, Peacock Blue £6,995
04 04 Subaru Impreza 2.0 WRX Turbo, AWD, 4dr, 71,000 miles, FDSH, a/c, r/c/locking, immob, ABS, PAS, e/w, CD, fogs, alloys, in met blue £6,695
02 52 Mercedes C230K 1.8 Coupe 2 dr, 94k, fsh, a/c, cruise, PAS, r/c/locking,immob, panoramic s/roof, e/w, CD, htd seats, leather, alloys, in silver £6.495
01 Y Subaru Impreza 2.0 WRX Turbo 4dr, 2 Owners, 75,000 miles, SH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, Alloys, Silver £4,995
0606 Ford Focus 2.0 TDCi Ghia4dr, 6sp, 2 owners, 97k, FSH, a/c, e/w, ABS, PAS, cruise, r/c/locking, immob, CD, alloys, in met blue £4,695
02 52 Peugeot 206 1.6 Coupe Convertible, 59,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, ER, EW, CD, Leather, Alloys, Met Blue £4,295

HATCHBACKS

08 08 Seat Leon 1.9 TDi Reference 5dr, 1 owner, 48,000 miles, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, in silver £7,995
07 57 Seat Leon 1.9 TDi Reference 5 dr, 1 owner, 73k, FSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, in met black £6,995
05 55 Vauxhall Signum 3.0 CDTi Design 5dr, 6sp, 60k, FDSH, a/c, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, fogs alloys, in met black £5,995
05 55 Volkswagen Golf 1.4 S 5dr, 2 owners, 58,000k, FDSH, ABS, PAS, a/c, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, in blue £5,995
07 56 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Edge 115BHP, 1 owner, 83k, FSH, ABS, PAS, A/C, RCL, E/W, CD, Alloy, in Met Green £4,695
07 57 Ford KA 1.3 Style 3dr, 1 Owner, 37,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, CL, Immob, EW, Radio/CD, Drivers Airbag, Cloth Trim, White £3,995
04 54 Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 Life 5dr , 96,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, CBC, RCL, Immob, EW, EM, CD, Met Silver £3,495
04 54 Renault Clio 1.2 16V Extreme 3 3DR, 1 owner, 51,000 mls, FDSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, sunroof, CD, e/w, in silver £3,495

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08 57 Mercedes Sprinter 311 2.2 CDi LWB Box Van, 1 owner, 138,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, e/w, CD, tail lift, in white ..... £9,995 + vat
06 06 NISSAN NAVARA 2.5 DCI OUTLAW D/C AUTO, 1 Owner, 103k, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, E/W, R/C/Locking, Immob, Side Steps, Roof Rails, Alloys, In Met Black ..... £9,995 +vat
08 57 MitsubishiL200 2.5 DI-D4 WORK, D/C, 1 owner,80,000L, FSH, ABS, PAS, c/locking, immob, CD, r/d lock, in white ..... £7,495 +vat
07 07 Mitsubishi L200 2.5 DI-D 4 Life Double Cab, 1 owner 63,000 miles, FSH, AC, ABS, PAS, CL, Immob, EW, CD, Side steps. In white ..... £7,495 +vat
07 57 Volkswagen Transporter 1.9 TDi T28 SWB 102 BHP, 1 owner, 97,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, immob, Side loading door, CD, Ply Lined, White ..... £6,995 +vat
07 57 Mercedes Vito 109 2.2 CDi Xtra Long Van, 6sp, 1 owner, 111,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, r/c/locking, immob, CD, ply lined, in white ..... £6,995 +vat
06 56 Mercedes Vito 109 2.2 CDi Compact SWB, 6sp, 2 Owneras, 64,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, ASR, RCL, Immob, EW, CD, Twin Side Loading Drs, White ..... £6,995 +vat
07 57 Mercedes Vito 2.2 CDi 109 LWB, 3 seater, 6sp, 1 Owner, 117,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, Twin side loading drs, White ..... £6,495 +vat
07 57 Ford Transit 85 2.2D T280 SWB, 3 seater, 1 Owner, 104,000 miles, ABS, PAS, ESP, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, Side loading dr, White ..... £5,995 +vat
07 07 Ford Transit 100 2.4D T350 LWB, Semi High Roof, 3 seater, 1 owner, 117,000 miles, ABS, PAS, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply lined, CD, Side loading dr, White ..... £5,995 +vat
07 57 Ford Transit 85 2.2 TDCi T280 SWB, Semi High Roof, 3 seater, 1 owner, 103,000 miles, FSH, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, Immobiliser in White ..... £5,995 +vat
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08 08 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTI 2000 CREW VAN, 5 .Seater, 1 Owner, 61k, FSH, ABS, PAS, R/C/Locking, Immob, 2x Side Loading Doors, 1/2 ply lined, In White ..... £4,995 +vat
07 07 PEUGEOT EXPERT 1.9D 815 70, 3 SEATER, 1 owner, 60,000 miles, FS, C/Locking, Immob, CD, Ply Lined in White ..... £4,995 +vat
08 57 Volkswagen Caddy 2.0 SDi 69PS, 1 Owner, 106,000 miles, ABS, PAS, ASR, RCL, Immob, CD, Ply Lined, White ..... £4,995 +vat
08 08 VAUXHALL ASTRAVAN 1.3 CDTI CLUB, 6 sp, 1 Owner, 73k, FSH, ABS, PAS, R/C/Locking, Immob, E/W, CD, In White ..... £4,695 +vat
07 07 Vauxhall Astravan 1.7 CDTi Sportive, 6sp, 110,000 miles, FSH, A/C, ABS, PAS, R/C/L, E/W, Immobiliser, Alloys, CD in White ..... £4,495 +vat
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58 Plate. Skoda Octavia Elegance TDi 2.0
Finished in Black, Sports Pack, 15,000 miles £13,995

58 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDi AUTOMATIC Hatchback
Finished in Dark Grey, 15, 000 miles £12,995

08 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, Leather Interior, 22,870 miles. £12,795

07 Plate Skoda Octavia 2.0 VRS TDi Hatchback
Finished in Black, FSH, 34,000 miles, FSH £10,995

05 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £6,995

09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,700 miles. £8,995

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 3 1.9 TDi Estate
Finished in Grey, 27,000 miles, FSH, £8,995

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles. £6,995

07 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, 22,500 miles. £6,995

58 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,495

57 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Classic 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Graphite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 39,500 miles. £5,995

Other Makes

05 Plate. BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci Sport 2-Dr Convertible
Finished in Imola Red, 31,500 miles. £12,995

08 Plate. Volvo C30 2.4i SE 2-Dr Coupe
Finished in Electric Silver, 14,053 miles. £12,495

59 Plate. SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S Emocion 5-Door Hatchback
Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,300 miles. ~~£11,995~~ **£10,995 OFFER**

58 Plate. Fiat 500 1.3 MultiJet Sport 3-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Pasodoble Red with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 27,100 miles. £9,795

51 Plate. BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci 2-Dr Convertible Automatic
Finished in Titanium Silver Metallic with a Grey Leather interior, 44,300 miles. ~~£8,995~~ **£8,495 OFFER**

55 Plate. Peugeot 407 SW 2.0 HDi 136 SE (Luxury) Estate Automatic
Finished in Silver Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 44,500 miles. £7,995

06 Plate. Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i T3 5-Dr
Finished in Eclipse Black, 32,500 miles. £5,995

04 Plate. Honda Civic 2.0 Type S 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Nighthawk Black, 48,500 miles. £5,795

56 Plate. Honda Jazz 1.4i-DSI SE 5-Door Hatchback
Finished in Ice Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 21,135 miles. £5,795

08 Plate. Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Door Hatchback
Finished in Metallic Machine Silver, 12,500 miles. £4,995

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07 07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Stylance 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic Metallic. 37,500 miles. Was: £9,295 **Now: £8,995** Save £300!

08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16V SE 85PS 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 17,500 miles. £8,295

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08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-door Hatchback in Black. 19,000 miles. £7,995

08 08 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sportrider 5-door Hatchback in Zenith Grey, 17,000 miles. £6,895

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05 05 BMW Z4 3.0i SE 2-door Roadster/Convertible Tiptronic in Maldives Blue. 13,500 miles. £16,750

07 07 Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CTDi Exclusive 5-door Hatchback Automatic/Tiptronic in Silver. 31,000 miles. Was: £8,295 **Now: £7,795** Save £500!

08 57 Skoda Octavia 1.6 FSi Classic 5-door Hatchback in Gold Metallic. 23,600 miles. Was: £7,995 **Now: £7,295** Save £700!

07 07 Renault Clio 1.4 Dynamique 5-door Hatchback in Mercury Metallic. 24,500 miles. Was: £7,295 **Now: £6,995** Save £300!

07 07 Skoda Roomster 2 1.4 5-door Hatchback in Deep Sea Blue. 23,000 miles. Was: £7,695 **Now: £6,995** Save £700!

08 08 Renault Twingo 1.2 GT 3-door Hatchback in Black. 12,000 miles. Was: £6,995 **Now: £6,395** Save £600!

07 07 Renault Modus 1.4 16V Dynamique 5-door Hatchback in Antique Green. 10,800 miles. Was: £6,995 **Now: £6,295** Save £700!

07 07 Vauxhall Agila 1.2 Design 5-door MPV in Star Silver. 9,800 miles Was: £6,495 **Now: £5,995** Save £500!

07 57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate 5-door Hatchback Automatic in Tonic Blue. 17,500 miles. £5,995

08 57 Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-door Hatchback in Ocean Blue. 26,500 miles. £5,495

05 05 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Club 5-door Hatchback in Star Silver Metallic. 34,500 miles. £4,995

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2005 55 SAAB 9-3 TiD Vector Sport, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Diesel, 61,910 miles, Metallic Grey, 3 Owners, Electric Mirrors, Electric Windows, Foglights, Heated Seats, Multi Function Steering Wheel, Driver Airbag, Computer, Climate Control, Central Locking, CD, Anti Theft System, Adjustable Steering Wheel Colum/Wheel, Air Conditioning, Adjustable Seats, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Cruise Control, Front Armrest, Folding Rear Seats, Immobiliser, Passenger Airbag, Rear armrest, side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear Headrests, Sports Seats, Traction Control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body Coloured Bumpers, Drivers Airbag, Electric Door Mirrors, Front Electric Windows, Front Fog Lights, Front Head Restraints, Heated Door Mirrors, Isofix Child Seat Anchor Points, Pas, Rear Electric Windows, Remote Central Locking, Steering Wheel Rake Adjustment, Steering Wheel Reach Adjustment, Trip Computer, Solid Paint, Rear Wiper, Partial Leather Seat Trim, Reverse Parking Aid. Insurance Group: 12 ..... **£7,995**

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

THE Government has promised to shake-up the state pension system in a bid to tackle the shortfall created by both a rise in life expectancy and a lack of retirement savings.

We look at how the pension reform and new laws set to be implemented next year will affect employers and employees alike.

SIMON ROBINSON
BUSINESS EDITOR
TELEPHONE: 01303 817185
EMAIL: simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

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Airport inquiry decision will decide Marsh's fate

By **SIMON ROBINSON**
simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

A PUBLIC inquiry into the controversial Lydd airport expansion plan will begin next week.

The review will be held at Shepway Civic Centre, Folkestone, and is expected to last 13 weeks. The inquiry officials' ruling will have a massive impact on Romney Marsh, regardless of the outcome.

Airport supporters claim the £25 million plans will give the area a much-needed economic lift.

Lydd airport bosses say an extra terminal and extended runway would create an additional 330 jobs on site and 170 indirect jobs in associated businesses such as hotels, restaurants, taxi firms, and car-hire companies.

They also argue the expansion would make a major contribution to the area's regeneration and compensate for the closure and decommissioning of Dungeness A and B respectively.

Those against argue that any airport expansion would have a devastating effect on wildlife and coastal wetlands.

The original planning application, approved by Shepway District Council in March, 2010, was met with more than 12,000 objections, including from Greenpeace, the RSPB, British Energy, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, and Kent Wildlife Trust.

The inquiry was ordered by the Government after environmental concerns were raised.

The inquiry – which begins on Tuesday – will look at each issue on a topic-by-topic basis and cover ornithology, noise, ecology, nuclear safety and the socio-economic implications.

Members of the public will be able to speak in early July. A final decision on the application is not expected until late 2011 at the earliest.

INTAKE: The Lydd airport inquiry opens on Tuesday and is expected to last 13 weeks

The case for – and against – planned expansion at Lydd

FOR: In a presentation to Shepway Economic Regeneration Partnership last month, the airport's owners laid out the case for their plans to be given the go-ahead.

Air traffic control manager Tim Maskens said: "Development of Lydd would be consistent with Government policy on airports and also has the potential to contribute to regeneration within Shepway and further afield.

"The socio-economic impacts are very positive. Shepway is under-performing economically and is in need of regeneration.

"Local economic strategies give explicit support for the development of Lydd because of the scope for job creation and acting as a stimulus to other economic activity. In the event of the planning applications not being approved, the future of Lydd airport is uncertain. A prosperous and thriving Lydd airport is vital to the future economic health of our region."

AGAINST: Opponents say Dungeness is one of the most important and sensitive wildlife habitats in the UK. Throughout consultation the RSPB maintained that laws protecting wildlife mean it is up to the airport to prove its plans will not be damaging.

RSPB South East's Sam Dawes said: "Development of Lydd airport threatens the ability to protect this special place, which provides much-needed space for both wildlife and people."

The charity says the protection levels highlight its importance, nationally and internationally. The shingle landscape is home to unique wildlife and the coastal wetlands are of European importance for waterfowl.

Last year saw a pair of bitterns breed at the RSPB's Dungeness reserve for the first time and this winter also saw record numbers of the species. The reserve also hosted the UK's first ever pair of breeding purple herons.

Healthcare drive to ease Pfizer pain

SAGA has revealed plans for a rapid expansion of its east Kent operations, creating up to 1,000 jobs.

The firm – which specialises in services for the over-50s, including insurance, finance and holidays – says it will fill existing vacancies and create a range of new posts over the next 12 months.

The recruitment boom will allow Saga, Kent's largest private sector employer, to continue with its recent healthcare division expansion.

Earlier this week the company completed a £120 million acquisition of a healthcare company, Nestor, which employs 9,000 people across the country. And Saga bosses said they were keen to further develop their healthcare business both organically and through acquisition.

A spokesman said: "Our intention is to grow the healthcare businesses so we will be as famous for providing healthcare as we are for holidays, cruises, insurance and savings. This is very much a strategic drive to create a national healthcare business, with its roots here in Kent."

Saga's expansion provides some solace for the area, which was stunned by Pfizer's decision to close its Sandwich base, resulting in the loss of 2,400 jobs.

The Saga spokesman said they were interested in recruiting former Pfizer staff.

He said: "We have been in touch with Pfizer to let them know we are looking for people with a range of skills, from work in our contact centres, to those interested in general management, IT, and HR."

Saga has sites in Thanet, Folkestone and Hythe.

Comment

CONTROVERSIAL airport plans for the county continue to divide opinion. The proposals – to build an island airport in the middle of the Thames Estuary and expand operations at Lydd on Romney Marsh – has seen an environment vs economy battle break out.

The Estuary airport plan, dubbed Boris Island after its biggest backer, London Mayor Boris Johnson, was seemingly dead in the water after vociferous opposition from the RSPB, Medway Council and Kent County Council, among others.

But the Mayor refuses to drop the proposal, insisting South East airport provisions must be expanded and that the onus should not be on the capital to provide it.

Pro-Lydd airport campaigners say the £25 million terminal and extended runway plan would result in a much-needed boost for south Kent.

They made an impassioned appeal to Shepway District Council for the expansion to be given the go-ahead on both job creation and economic investment grounds.

But their pleas were also countered by more than 12,000 objections to the application.

As with Boris Island, the RSPB and pressure groups such as the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England were among the loudest anti-airport expansion voices to be heard.

The two Kent proposals throw up an interesting debate: at what point does economic investment become more important than environmental impact, if at all?

There is no doubt that the Lydd airport plan would be welcomed in the area on purely financial terms.

The new terminal is expected to be able to handle up to 500,000 passengers a year, which will create hundreds of jobs and bring a huge cash injection for the local economy.

But should the need for a financial boost outweigh the potential damage to wildlife and coastal wetlands?

That is for a public inquiry to decide. It starts on Tuesday.

BUSINESS EDITOR, SIMON ROBINSON
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Kent Business School

New chapter in WH Smith buyout

NATIONAL high street giant WH Smith has bought 22 British Bookshops and Stationers (BBS) stores, including two in Kent.

The immediate future of the Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells branches was secured after the retailer paid just over £1 million to the administrators of the struggling chain.

More than 200 BBS workers will transfer to WH Smith in a phased takeover which will begin on Tuesday, February 22.

BBS, more familiarly known as Sussex Stationers, expanded across the South East during the 1980s and 1990s. The firm, which has branches in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover and Maidstone, went into administration last month. A spokesman for recovery specialists Zoflo Cooper, appointed by the administrators, said the firm had been brought to the brink as a result of poor pre-Christmas sales and cash-flow problems in its dealings with publishers.

The future of the remaining 50 BBS stores across the region remains uncertain.

Our central role in Dickens celebration

By **SIMON ROBINSON**
simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

TOURISM bosses have great expectations that the county can capitalise on the bicentenary of literary giant Charles Dickens' birth.

Visit Kent chiefs have been working closely with partner agencies with the goal of drawing visitors into the county in 2012.

A Kent and Medway Dickens 2012 working party has already identified a number of objectives.

Plans under way include enhancing the popular Broadstairs and Medway Dickens festivals; an exhibition at the Guildhall Museum, Rochester; a movie map highlighting key locations used in films of Dickens' novels; starting restoration work at the Swiss Chalet and Eastgate Gardens, Rochester; and the opening of a visitor centre at Gad's Hill Place, Higham, where the Victorian man of letters made his home and died.

EXCITING: Sandra Matthews-Marsh

Visit Kent chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said: "We are also working with Visit Britain for their international Dickens bicentenary campaign, as Kent and Medway are central to his life and novels.

"It is hard to think of anywhere in the county that has not influenced at least one of his novels in some way.

"Like all the best writers, Dickens drew inspiration from his own life experiences, the places he had seen and the people he encountered. Many Kent and Medway bicentenary projects are under way and there are more in the pipeline. This is another exciting opportunity for Kent and Medway to really showcase our county when we welcome our visitors in 2012. Furthermore, the projects are all being designed not only to deliver next year but to provide a lasting legacy to attract visitors in years to come and support our 3,000 tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses and the 63,000 jobs they sustain."

DICKENSIAN: Rochester is closely associated with the great author

The Kent and Medway Dickens 2012 working party includes representatives from Medway Council, Kent County Council, Thanet council and Gravesham council, Kent Film Office, Dickens Fellowship, and members of the Dickens family.

Looking for leading ladies

A NETWORKING group for businesswomen is hoping to expand into Kent.

Ladies at 11 is looking to form groups in Ashford, Maidstone, Sittingbourne and Sevenoaks.

Sarah Martin, founder of Ladies at 11, said: "This year is already looking to be an exciting time for us. Becoming a Ladies at 11 group leader increases both personal and business profiles in the area.

"It can also help to increase sales opportunities and profitability. We are looking for ambitious, enterprising, professional women to join our team of leaders and to run a monthly meeting.

"Group leaders are provided with training and support and ideally are already keen networkers."

The benefits of the group have already impressed one Kent businesswoman.

Gill Buchanan, group leader of Tunbridge Wells' Ladies at 11, said: "Initially, I went to the Woking and Weybridge groups and was impressed with the way the groups operated, the numbers of businesswomen attending the meetings and the atmosphere.

"The groups are informal but still have a business focus, which makes them different to other networking events for women. I have made some great contacts and the group is going from strength to strength, but it will be great when the other Kent groups are up and running, too.

NETWORKING: Sarah Martin (left) and Gill Buchanan of Ladies at 11

"As well as the extra money I make by being a group leader, the greatest benefit is that my own business, Hens Dancing, has benefited. Being a Ladies at 11 group leader helps raise your profile and increase awareness of your business."

Ladies 11 holds focused, productive meetings, which are open to any businesswomen across a variety of trades, from financial advisers and marketers to photographers and make-up artists.

Unlike other networking groups, the number of trades and industries in the organisation are not limited to one per group.

Networking groups for business are particularly useful for new businesses in the current economic climate.

Anika Petri, owner of Unique Curtains, joined the group just as she was starting her business.

She said: "Being a member of Ladies at 11 has been terrific. I have received a lot of support but also the leads and sales from the contacts I've made have paid for my membership and helped to get my business off the ground. I can't recommend it highly enough."

For more information, visit www.ladiesat11.com or call Sarah Martin on 07855 465202.

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

CAREER coaches Passe-Partout Consulting have issued a five-point redundancy survival checklist.

Co-founders Alex Taskin and Darren O'Conor said the first step was to stop and take stock before working through the five steps. Mr Taskin said: "Redundancy is an incredibly difficult time and often a real shock to people. Once some of the initial feelings are worked through, it's about taking some serious 'you' time and working through exactly what you want and what you can offer a potential employer.

"Being positive is the most important thing, hard as that may be."

For more information or to talk about coaching or people development opportunities go to www.passe-partout.com or phone 01634 844 944 or email Sam Oliver at samantha.oliver@passe-partout.com

The five-point plan:

- Don't panic – be positive and try to look at it as an opportunity, use your time wisely, break actions down in achievable tasks.
- Talk about it – get financial and pension advice, speak to your local council, go onto the directgov website, look to your own support network, speak to a career coach.
- Soul search – identify your goals and diagnose your current reality, what do you really want to do and what makes you happy? Could this be a chance to re-train, start your own business or change careers?
- Sell yourself – work up options, rework your CV, summarise your skills and experience into a 30-second pitch, practice interview questions, get into business or social networks.
- Get out there – take action, talk to agencies, apply for jobs, start a new business, enrol in a course.

THE University of Greenwich's income from externally sponsored research and consultancy has rocketed by 60 per cent in the last two years to an annual figure of £15.3 million. The rise, when added to funding from government sources, has seen the university's total research revenues nearly double since 2007/08.

Professor Tom Barnes, deputy vice-chancellor for research and enterprise, said: "Businesses, charities and local and national government all come to the University of Greenwich when they want an expert team to undertake research which is directly relevant to their needs.

"The university is highly skilled in helping all sorts of organisations apply new concepts and techniques to help them achieve their goals.

"Our vibrant research and enterprise culture also benefits the wider community."

More than 250 clients have used the University of Greenwich to carry out research and consultancy services. These range from local businesses using the university's start-up facilities in the Medway Enterprise Hub, to governments and multinational companies such as BAE and BP.

A FREE 'green' economy conference and exhibition will be held in Canterbury this month.

The event – A Greener Economy: Time for Change? – will highlight some of the flourishing eco-friendly businesses, services, resources and initiatives in the area, review how the environment contributes to the economy, and provide opportunities to discuss how a greener economy could be developed. The conference will be at Augustine House, Canterbury, on Wednesday, February 23, from 8.30am to 1.30pm. It is open to all organisations in the Canterbury district. Bookings can be made online at events@canterbury.gov.uk or by calling 01227 862532.

Careers fair takes a stand to offer future of opportunity

GOOD JOB: The careers fair attracted 90 firms and organisations

A GROUNDBREAKING coming together of businesses and young people has proved a success in its three years of operation in Folkestone, ***writes Nick Ames***.

This year's Shepway Careers Fair saw 90 companies and organisations take stands to give students and pupils a glimpse of the opportunities available to them.

A key aim is also to keep young people interested in working locally and contributing their skills to Kent companies as businesses look to progress through testing economic times.

County councillor Leyland Ridings provided the opening address at the Leas Cliff Hall on Wednesday.

"I think there are as many business opportunities out there as during periods of full employment," he said. "There are more innovation opportunities as the business community looks towards developing a wider range of skills.

"In schools and universities there is a far greater emphasis on developing young people's abilities in fields such as finance and marketing, as education and business work together to give those coming into the work environment the best chance of success.

"I would very much like to see events such as this extended across Kent so other educational and business communities could benefit as do those in Shepway."

To view this clip, log on @ www.businessforkent.co.uk

Cllr Leyland Ridings opens the event at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone. Search 'jobs fair'

Pupils from grammar schools, comprehensives and colleges attended the day-long event which included stands from companies, visitor attractions and public bodies.

Chelsea Isles, 14, from Pent Valley School, said: "It gives us the chance to see what is out there when we leave school. The more aware we are of the world of work, the better the career choices we can make."

Chris Kirkham, of Discover Folkestone, was keen to show young people the benefits of the tourist trade to the area.

"About 3,500 people work in tourism locally – that's seven per cent of the workforce," he said. "The trade itself brings in £200 million a year. This is a chance to let people know how important that sector is and show them that there are jobs available. If young people want to get ahead they don't have to go up to London or elsewhere. There are opportunities right on their doorstep."

Event organiser Els Howard said: "This bringing together of young people and those who want to harness their talents is the way forward for the local economy to make the best use of those about to leave education and enter the world of work."

Firm's heavy price in asbestos breach

A CONSTRUCTION company has been fined £10,000 after breaching asbestos regulations during a church demolition job.

The Health and Safety Executive launched an investigation into Berry Estates Development in April, last year, after receiving a complaint about works taking place on the corner of Holborough Road, Snodland.

The site was owned by company director Bernard Berry.

Both Berry and the firm, of Wateringbury, near Maidstone, were charged with breaching articles five, seven and 16 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 and went before Maidstone Magistrates on Tuesday.

Debris

The court heard two HSE inspectors visited the site on April 23. They found the majority of the old church had already been demolished but debris containing asbestos was blocking the pavement on one side and had also spilled out onto the pavement on the other side.

Principal contractor Berry could not provide paperwork such as a demolition plan, method statements or risk assessments. No asbestos survey had been completed prior to demolition and site security was poor.

A prohibition notice was served preventing further work on site. After the notice was served Mr Berry commissioned a pre-demolition asbestos survey, which highlighted asbestos-containing materials across the site.

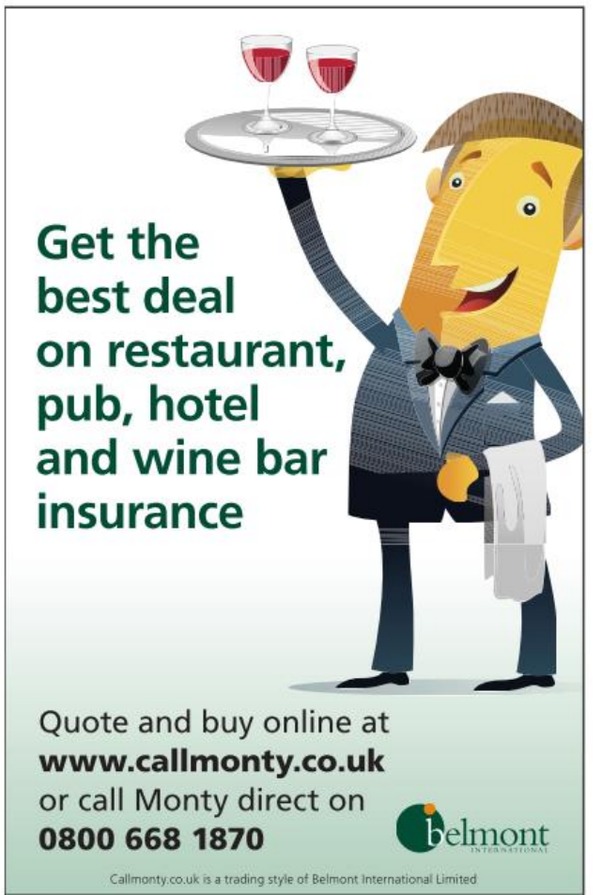
An HSE investigation showed the building was being knocked into pedestrian areas and broken up with an excavator. It showed no evidence of employee training, no personal protection or respiratory equipment and no plan of work on site.

It also revealed no provision to prevent dust spreading during demolition and crushing. HSE inspector David Fussell, said: "The company failed to take any measures aimed at controlling workers' exposure to asbestos and reduce any future incidence of related diseases.

"This is a shocking case as it was foreseeable that a building of this age may have had asbestos in the fabric, as the subsequent survey highlighted.

"If the company had carried out a survey and prepared a plan of work prior to demolition, the risk of exposure to workers or the public could have been avoided."

The company and Berry pleaded guilty to all charges. The firm was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,391. Berry was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay the same amount in costs.



BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

The key to our economy

by Simon Ludden, financial planning manager with Furley Page Solicitors

I RECENTLY had an opportunity to hear a talk by one of the City's top economists. Usually these talks are full of doom and gloom, but not this time. Key indicators show the markets are good value, the US economy is looking strong and interest rates look likely to stay low – at least until late this year, but possibly until November, 2012, or beyond. Talk of a double-dip recession seemed a distant memory.

Simon Ludden

Then we had the UK GDP figures for Q4 of 2010. The forecast was for the economy to grow by 0.5 per cent. Instead we saw a 0.5 per cent contraction which meant the projected growth figures were disastrously wrong. Can this be explained purely by bad weather, or have the Government and Bank of England got it wrong? Is double-dip back on the agenda?

Even if we take the weather out of the equation, we would only have had zero growth.

While I don't for one minute feel a double-dip recession is likely, there is no doubt that many of us are in a period of belt-tightening and job losses may not be good for the economy generally.

However, for companies that export, a combination of the ability to restructure personnel, lower wage increases and a cheap pound has led to almost boom times.

Manufacturing hasn't had it so good in quite a while. But what these companies need to ensure is that they take care of long-term growth by gradually absorbing those out of work. This will lead to sustainable growth.

For the first time since 2008, two members of the Bank of England monetary committee that sets interest rates voted for a 0.25 per cent rise. However, that was before the Q4 figures were announced. There is no doubt in my mind that raising interest rates at this time would be a disaster for the economy.

The resulting rise in house repossessions and a stronger pound would only be detrimental to recovery. In any case, there must be severe doubts as to whether raising interest rates would have any effect on inflation.

The inflationary pressures at present are higher oil and commodity prices, and record food prices. As these are led predominantly by world economic issues, why would raising interest rates work here?

The governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, has indicated that a rise in interest rates is not on the agenda. He needs to stand strong against media pressure which is starting to talk it up.

So far there is every indication that he will do so, even if it does involve writing a letter to the Chancellor each month to explain why inflation is not on target. I'm with Mr King, but he needs more than a few lone voices. Businesses have to put their collective voice to a strategy that makes sound economic sense, and that can only be keeping interest rates where they are for some time to come.

Icing on the cake for 5-9 enterprise trendsetters

SWEET: Claire Melvin and Steve Emecz (inset) are in the new book

By **ED HILL**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO entrepreneurs from Tunbridge Wells have been included in a book about turning a hobby into a business.

Claire Melvin started her cupcake business, Claire's Handmade Cakes, while holding down a day job with a local charity and Steve Emecz runs MX Publishing while working for a software firm. Both feature in a book by Emma Jones, founder of Enterprise Nation, the UK's biggest website for home workers.

Case study

Aptly named 'Working 5-9', the book includes real-life case studies of individuals who have turned a passion or hobby into a way of making a living while holding down a day job at the same time.

The pair will be talking about their experiences with the author at a event organised by the Staples store at Fountains Retail Park, Tunbridge Wells, on Tuesday.

Claire said: "Ideally I would like my 5-9 business to become my full-time job. If I am successful, I would like to run a Fairtrade and organic bakery and coffee shop in Tunbridge Wells where I make my cakes on the side.

"I'm looking forward to sharing my experiences – and some of my cupcakes – with other would-be entrepreneurs."

BY THE BOOK: Emma Jones

Working 5-9 focuses on the growing band of people who are running a successful business in their spare time. It profiles Claire's venture as a great example of a home business.

Emma Jones said: "It was in late 2008 when I spotted a trend, which involved people setting up a business without giving up on their full-time job. Basically they were working 9am to 5pm as normal, then from 5pm to 9pm on their own project.

"For many the appeal is that they can build a business at night and weekends from a spare room, while holding onto a salary. This is low-cost and low-risk and the very best way to start.

"Our research suggests that by the end of 2011, more than eight million people in the UK will be making some form of income from home, which is incredible."

Emma started her first home business at the age of 27 by working 5 to 9 and sold it within two years of trading. In 2006 she launched Enterprise Nation and has since written two books on the subject of home start-ups. The Staples event will provide tips for those who want to set up a business from home, with advice on how to apply the technology to ensure it is up-and-running while you're at work.

There will also be an opportunity to talk to other successful 5- 9ers. The first 50 people to register online to attend will also receive a copy of Emma's new book on the night.

Staples has been working with Enterprise Nation to support this growing trend during the last 12 months, including the launch of a 5-9ers club, which offered discounts to people launching their business from home in their free time.

Start-ups

Store manager Nick Stevens said: "We've noticed we have an increasing number of start-ups and home businesses in our customer base and are thrilled to be hosting this event, which we hope will inspire and encourage others.

"There's clearly an enormous amount of entrepreneurial spirit out there and our 5-9ers are a great example of what you can do if you put your mind to it."

And £1,000 of Staples vouchers will also be up for grabs to help prospective new businesses get the best start. The event starts at 6pm. Go to working5to9tunbridge.eventbrite.com or pick up a leaflet in store if you want to attend.

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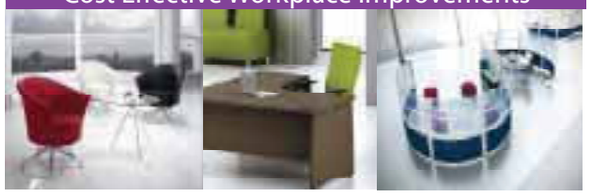

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Reach for the virtual sky

ADM Computing is helping budding pilots to fly without leaving the ground.

The IT business, based in Canterbury, has donated three PCs to Faversham air cadets to help with flight simulation training.

Carrie-Anne Feltham of ADM said: "We deal with many large companies in and around Kent and often when customers upgrade their systems they allow us to recycle their old machines.

"We clean and test them before donating them to a local cause. We hope the cadets enjoy many hours on the PCs and increase their skills through the simulation software."

Warrant Officer Phil Camp, commander of the Faversham squadron, said: "We use simulators to teach cadets about flight controls, instruments and navigation. They apply their knowledge when we take them flying in the RAF's two-seat training aircraft."

BUSINESS WEEK

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SHEPHERD Neame's brewery tours drew record numbers last year – up 25 per cent on the 2009 figures. The rise helped the Faversham-based brewer's overall visitor numbers rise by 10 per cent year-on-year.

Visitor centre manager Graham Hukins said: "As Britain's oldest brewer we are proud of our heritage and delighted to show visitors the heart of the working brewery. Our beer and food matching evenings have proved extremely popular and we have had to increase the number of tours to meet demand. We are looking forward to another busy year."

Brewery tours now include the recently converted wine and spirits store, with a display of original pub signs, hop-picking memorabilia and the brewery's collection of vintage delivery vehicles. Other tour highlights include visiting the brewhouse with its 100-year-old mash tuns, tasting water from the well and sampling a selection of Kentish ales.

M CLARK Swimming Pools made a splash at the annual industry awards after picking up two bronze medals.

The Westerham-based firm collected the trophies in the 'Liner Pools up to £30,000' and 'Liner Pools £30,000 and over' categories at the Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association (SPATA) Awards. After collecting the medals, Luke Clark said: "We are delighted to be acknowledged for the work the team has put in over the last 12 months."

SPATA managing director Chris Hayes said: "This year was our 50th anniversary and the awards once again created tough competition for the judges, with a shortlist of 85 entries across 22 categories."

FOOD firm Ardo UK has taken on five new staff after securing a frozen pizza contract.

The frozen fruit and vegetable specialist has allocated space for 2.5 million of Berlin-based Freiberger's pizzas at their cold store in Charing, near Ashford. Ardo's supply chain director Jon Barnes, pictured right, said: "We are delighted to have secured such a huge and prestigious contract and have taken on five more staff as a result, which is great. Freiberger had to move all its stock from the previous storage company in a short space of time and luckily we were able to accommodate this."

Ardo's cold store has mobile racking and capacity for 20,000 pallets. The management systems are fully computerised with individual pallet lot control, scanning and temperature control. The 24-hour operating service enables deliveries to be accepted any time of the day or night.

SWALE Heating saw a 100 per cent rise in emergency callouts over the festive period.

The firm's 24-hour call centre dealt with more than 57,000 calls in December, up from 28,000 in December, 2009. A spokesman said: "The number of calls was extraordinarily high and could be partly due to the economic climate as well as the cold weather. People are putting off boiler servicing – but this is a dangerous false economy."

Swale Heating was established in 1972 and has a workforce of 419 operating throughout the South East.

RIVALS: DHB's Bob Goldfield (inset left) and People's Port backer MP Charlie Elphicke (inset right) have opposing views of the Dover sell-off

Port's rival bidders agree quick decision is needed

By **SIMON ROBINSON**
simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

RIVAL parties in the proposed Port of Dover sell-off have called on the Coalition Government to make a quick decision regarding the future of the Kent asset.

Ministers are set to rule on whether to allow Dover Harbour Board (DHB) to sell the port to private investors.

If they decided against, it would leave the door open for the innovative People's Port Trust scheme to step in with a £200 million offer.

Both DHB and Dover and Deal Tory MP Charlie Elphicke, who launched the People's Port bid, said they were keen for a decision to be made quickly.

"The Government is deciding on whether to agree to the sale," said Mr Elphicke. "It's a decision for the ministers and, of course, I hope it can be reached quickly."

DHB chief executive Bob Goldfield said: "Naturally we would welcome a decision in order to deliver on our aspirations for the future of the Port of Dover, providing the means to invest in its future development and to assist the regeneration of Dover through the creation of a new Port of Dover Community Trust."

The sale was first touted last year, when the Labour government placed the port on a list of public assets which could be sold off to help tackle the country's deficit.

The Harbour Board voluntarily submitted a scheme for consideration which looked to secure private investment, although the former government stressed it had no plans to force through privatisation.

At the same time Mr Elphicke launched the People's Port bid, which would hand greater control back to the town, with every resident offered a share of the port for £10.

A Dover People's Port Trust was established and a £200m offer put to government. Mr Elphicke said some £200m had already been raised "in the City" and interest has been cited from businesses.

Overall financing includes the £200m plus £50m for the regeneration of the port zone, £50m for investment in infrastructure and £100m for developments over the next five years.

Ferry operators P&O, Seafrance and DFDS – the port's key customers – have all given their backing. Dame Vera Lynn and community leaders have also pledged their support.

But DHB said the People's Port plan was "not credible" and although the objectives were the same as the harbour board's, the trust appeared to have no business plan.

• SMALL-business owners are being invited to attend a free buffet hosted by Business Network International at Canterbury Golf Club on Monday, February 21. BNI was founded in 1986 and has 100,000 members across 40 countries, and more than 1,000 in Kent. The informal meeting starts at 7.30pm. To book, call 01227 728027.

Trust partnership opens route back to work through voluntary sector

IAIN DUNCAN SMITH

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

THOUSANDS of training and volunteering opportunities are set to be made available to the unemployed, the Government has announced.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Iain Duncan Smith said he hoped the scheme would help willing out-of-work people take their first steps back into employment.

The plan will see advisers from youth charity the Prince's Trust and local government voluntary organisations move in to Job Centre Plus offices to make job-seekers of all ages aware of the volunteering and training opportunities in their area. A Memorandum of Understanding formalising the partnership between Job Centre Plus and the trust was signed by the respective chief executives on Monday.

Mr Duncan Smith said: "I am delighted that this partnership with the Prince's Trust and local voluntary sector organisations across the country will mean thousands of volunteering opportunities for job-seekers. For some it will be a chance to get some valuable experience and gain skills after years without work.

"I have long been a vocal advocate of empowering grass roots organisations, as I believe they have the dedication, experience and specialist knowledge to get Britain working again."

Prince's Trust chief executive Martina Milburn said: "With youth unemployment at a record high, it is more important than ever to help young people into jobs.

"This partnership will help us reach thousands more disadvantaged young people, giving them the skills and confidence to break out of long-term unemployment and poverty.

"Transforming these young lives will have a huge impact on their families and communities, as well as on Britain's economy."

Prince's Trust advisers and local volunteering centres will start to appear in Job Centres in the next few weeks, with a national roll out from April, where possible.

Response from the voluntary sector:

"Volunteering is hugely important to the Citizens Advice service. We have more than 21,000 volunteers in bureaux throughout England and Wales providing vital services to our clients. We welcome any initiative which supports best practice in volunteer recruitment and are pleased to support Jobcentre Plus's new scheme which will introduce many more people to the benefits of volunteering."

Julia Dennis, Citizens Advice volunteer development manager

"We would be keen to welcome these volunteers to our shops and feel it's a win-win for both parties. They will be supporting us in raising vital funds for vulnerable children and we will be giving them valuable work experience, hopefully leading to future employment."

John Ellis, Barnardo's deputy director for volunteering UK

"Volunteering England welcomes the renewal of this agreement between Jobcentre Plus and The Prince's Trust. Volunteering has a central role in supporting people seeking to find a new job, in enhancing and evidencing their work-related skills and, often, in helping develop new interests in their career. Volunteering England has supported the building of the key relationships at local level between Jobcentre Plus and the local Volunteer Centre. The renewal of this agreement between JCP and The Prince's Trust promises to strengthen relationships among volunteering organisations and that will be good for communities and for JCP customers."

Mike Locke, Volunteering England's director of public affairs

"The National Council for Voluntary Youth Services' network of more than 180 members consistently provide valuable and life changing opportunities for young people across England.

"With youth unemployment at its highest for a generation, all organisations involved need to work together to provide effective skills training so that young people can get ahead in this incredibly competitive jobs market. We know from experience that it's crucial for young people to be signposted to the right opportunity at the right time and are pleased to support Jobcentre Plus in this initiative."

Susanne Rauprich, chief executive, National Council for Voluntary Youth Services

"We really welcome this opportunity for the sector and Jobcentre Plus to work closer together and gain a better understanding of each other. However, this needs to be more than just about volunteering – the third sector delivers fantastic services with proven success at getting the hardest to reach clients back into employment. These agreements must recognise this and we would encourage Jobcentre Plus to actively make the space and for organisations to seize this opportunity in order to make it a real success at a time when it is most needed."

Sir Stephen Bubb, chief executive, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations

"This is a good example of the public and voluntary sectors working together to support the vital work of voluntary and community organisations. With space being at such a premium in the current climate, we hope that as many organisations as possible will be able to take advantage of this new opportunity."

Sir Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

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For more details telephone Richard Purvis on
01303 817071

Prepare for pensions overhaul

The state pension system is set to undergo a radical overhaul with the introduction of legislative changes and new laws from 2012. Here, **ALAN RAMSEY**, from Whitehead Monckton's investment management department, runs through some of the key changes for both employers and employees

Date	Total minimum contribution	Minimum employer contribution	Minimum difference to be made up by employee % (gross)*
Oct 2012-Sept 2016	**2%**	**1%**	**1%**
Oct 2016-Sept 2017	**5%**	**2%**	**3%**
Oct 2017 onwards	**8%**	**3%**	**5%**

* The minimum difference includes tax relief available on employee contributions

PENSION reform is coming. Why? Put simply, we're all living too long and the Government believes we aren't saving enough for retirement.

There will be far more pensioners in future and those pensioners will live longer than before.

This will put a massive strain on an already creaking state pension system. Recent legislative changes to the state pension scheme mean people are being forced to wait longer before they collect their pension and the Government is proposing to bring in new laws from 2012 that will have a significant impact on every employer and employee in the UK.

The framework for these new laws is already in place in the shape of the Pensions Act 2008.

The key points are:

- Employers will, for the first time, be required to automatically enrol eligible employees into a pension scheme.
- Employers will, for the first time, be required to pay pension contributions for any employees who join and stay in the pension scheme.
- The UK regulator of work-based pension schemes (the Pensions Regulator) will police and enforce these new laws.
- Even where a company already has an existing workplace pension scheme, they may have to make changes so that it complies with the new laws.
- Employers can either use their own pension scheme to comply with these new laws or rely on a Government-built scheme – the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) scheme.

Both employers and employees will have to pay into the pension scheme, although the minimum amounts (as a percentage of qualifying earnings) are being introduced on a phased basis – as shown in the table above.

Once enrolled, an employee will have the option of opting out of the scheme, although doing so will also mean losing out on the employer's contributions.

The new rules are being staged over four years from 2012, with larger companies (800-plus staff) being affected first, smaller companies (fewer than 50 staff) last.

If you are an employer, now would be an excellent time to review any pension arrangements you have in place for your employees.

If you do not have a scheme in place for your employees, you should think about how NEST will be implemented in your workplace and how it will affect your long-term cash flow.

The Pensions Regulator website (www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk) has more information on the subject, or find an independent financial adviser at www.unbiased.co.uk. If you are an employee there is probably no action you need to take now. However, reviewing your retirement arrangements is always worthwhile.

- ***The information provided is based on current understanding of the relevant legislation and regulations and may be subject to alteration as a result of changes in legislation or practice. The information is based on current understanding of the Pensions Acts 2007 and 2008.***

VANDA JAMES: High regard

Vanda leads the ASB family team

TUNBRIDGE Wells and District Law Society president Vanda James has joined ASB Law to head up the family team.

Managing partner Andrew Clinton said: "We're delighted that Vanda is joining us. She is very highly regarded and her particular expertise in dealing with complex matrimonial and financial matters for high net worth individuals will add an extra dimension to our team."

A member of Resolution and an accredited member of the Law Society Family Law Panel, Ms James is also a qualified collaborative lawyer and regularly works with other collaborative lawyers across the South East and London.

ASB Law has offices in Maidstone and Crawley, Sussex, with 22 Partners and 150 legal and support staff providing a range of specialist services to businesses, public sector bodies and individual clients.

Free advice open days

EMPLOYMENT law, recruitment and VAT are among the topics to be covered at a series of free business advice open days.

The day-long workshops are being offered by HM Revenue and Customs.

The first takes place in Dartford on Tuesday, with the second being held in Swanley on Thursday, February 17, and the last in Boughton-Under-Blean, near Faversham, the following day.

A spokesman said: "The open days bring together a range of organisations under one roof in a one-stop-shop format.

"They offer practical advice and support to those already running a business, or anyone thinking of starting one. Each event features an exhibition and a series of informative seminars."

Visitors may attend the main exhibition at any time, but seminar places need to be booked in advance. For more information, call 0845 603 2691.

Dates and venues: Tuesday, February 15, 9.30am to 4pm, Temple Hill Community Centre, Temple Hill Square, Dartford; Thursday, February 17, 9.30am to 5pm, Alexandra Suite and Clock Tower Pavilion, St Mary's Road, Swanley; Friday, February 18, 9.45am to 2.30pm, Boughton-under-Blean village hall, off Bull Lane.

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on commercial property/facilities

unique business solutions

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TALKS A GOOD GAME

Former England captain and World Cup winner Martin Corry on life after a successful playing career

Interview with
DAVID PRITCHARD

'I now realise what it is like to live a normal life'

RETIRING in your mid-30s might sound like heaven for a lot of people, but for many sport figures it is a moment to dread.

From a young age their lives are mapped out and dominated by a weekly schedule of train, play, recover, over and over again for years on end, until one day it all stops. The camaraderie of the changing room vanishes, as do the regular shots of adrenalin on a match day, replaced by a yawning chasm of free time which can overwhelm even the most prepared star.

It is almost two years since former England captain Martin Corry hung up his boots after a long and distinguished career at the top level. While the former Tunbridge Wells schoolboy avoided the pitfalls which have swallowed many over the years, he admits it has taken time to adapt to a new routine.

He said: "It's the first time I've been in normal life. It took a while to realise the impact giving up rugby was going to have but I've seemed to realise now what a normal life does actually entail and to be fair I've enjoyed it.

Transition

"It hasn't been a really tough transition because I was fortunate enough that my career wasn't really curtailed by injury. I still played until I was 35 and whilst the body told me it was time to stop, the mind was probably getting that way as well. From that regard it wasn't too bad and it's certainly nice now facing other challenges."

Few expected the former Leicester Tigers forward to walk away from the game altogether after calling it a day, but one of Corry's new ventures may have risen an eyebrow or two with some who encountered him as a player.

The 37-year-old now makes semi-regular appearances on TV and radio shows as a rugby pundit. Experiencing life on the other side of the microphone has transformed his view of the industry, prompting some long overdue acts of contrition.

He said: "It's fair to say as a player I wasn't media friendly. I was completely focused on the game. When you see it from the other side it's different and I've gone round to a few people and apologised for how I was and all the headaches I must have caused.

"It's just little things which you don't think have a big impact. When you're stood in the tunnel and you have some media guy saying 'you're not ready to go out yet' and when your whole team is chomping at the bit to run out on the field you think 'sod it, it's time to get out, we don't want to be stuck in the tunnel', so I took them out. You now realise the implication it has on the whole TV production side. They seem to have forgotten it now though, which is good."

Corry, who made 64 appearances during a 10-year career with England, is also involved in coaching the next generation of players. His main focus is on ruckingball.com, a website he helped to set up to give young players, coaches and parents advice on all aspects of the sport.

Along with a panel of respected figures, including former Lions hooker Shane Byrne and ex-Ireland coach Eddie O'Sullivan, Corry answers questions on the site's forum.

He said: "It's something I'm really pleased with to keep me in touch but also to put a little bit back as well. It gets me into junior rugby clubs and schools and with the team of experts we've got working on it just passing on a little bit of the information which may be of use. I've really enjoyed it and I don't view it as work."

Despite leaving Kent long ago, Corry retains close links with the county and in particular his former club, Tunbridge Wells. He returned to St Mark's Recreation Ground in pre-season to run training sessions and keeps a keen eye on developments all the way down the rugby pyramid.

FACT FILE

NAME: Martin Corry
AGE: 37
CLUBS: Tunbridge Wells, Newcastle Gosforth, Bristol, Leicester Tigers
ENGLAND CAREER: 64 caps (1997-2007), 16 as captain
HONOURS: World Cup, 2 European Cups, 5 Premiership titles, Anglo Welsh Cup
RETIRED: June 2009

Picture: REX FEATURES

IN THE THICK OF IT: Martin Corry, in action against Australia in 2005, says it took time to adjust to retirement but is relishing life outside the competitive arena

Despite the help of a former England star, Wells look to be heading for relegation from London 1 South this season. Still strictly amateur, they have struggled to compete at a level where the trend is increasingly towards semi-professionalism.

Corry, who played for the club before the sport's elite players went professional, is uneasy about the amount of money invested in playing squads outside of the top tier.

He said: "It's a big debate and I don't think it's right for the game. If you look at rugby league in this country 95 per cent is amateur. When I came through the junior system - okay, the whole sport was amateur - but the values which rugby taught me at junior level stayed with me for a long time.

"It's all about staying with your teammates, but if you're getting clubs which are buying a team together there's an element of a false team spirit. It doesn't sit well with me but even if you ban it there are always going to be payments under the table or find different ways of paying. [The existing system] is probably the cleanest way but there's an angle of it which doesn't sit too well."

COUNTDOWN TO THE OPEN

151 DAYS UNTIL THE OPEN – THE NUMBER OF YEARS SINCE THE INAUGURAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, HELD AT PRESTWICK GOLF CLUB IN 1860. WILLIE PARK SR WON THE FIRST OF HIS FOUR TITLES BY TWO STROKES.

TICKETS have gone on sale to Golf LIVE 2011, which will be held at the London Golf Club later this year.

The three-day event, which gives golf fans a chance to get up close and learn from the world's best, was launched last year. It has been switched to the club, near Brands Hatch, for this year's edition, to be held in May.

Victorious Ryder Cup captain Colin Montgomerie will lead a group of world class players in showcasing their skills from tee to green in tutorials. The line-up is yet to be confirmed, but Paul Casey, Ian Poulter and Retief Goosen were among the stars at last year's event.

Several big names from the golfing media have signed up, including BBC duo Peter Alliss and Iain Carter.

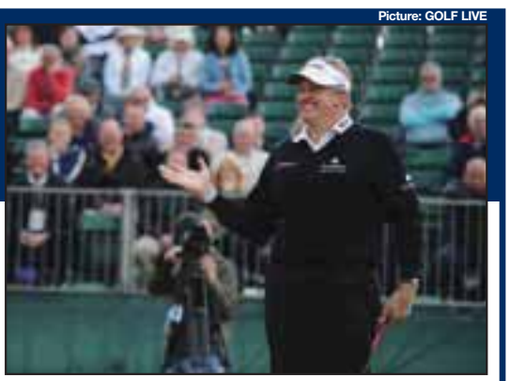
Montgomerie said: "I'm already starting to plan my masterclass sessions for Golf LIVE 2011 and I'm confident that this year's event will be even more successful than last year.

"These world renowned Golf commentators are a great asset to Golf LIVE as they help the players communicate their methods and tips to the fans."

One of the additions from last year is a Junior Golf Academy, aimed at encouraging under-16s to take up the sport.

Tickets are available from www.golfliveevent.com

Picture: GOLF LIVE



MASTERCLASS: Colin Montgomerie will lead a group of world-class players at GolfLIVE 2011 at the London Club

Lizzy Bobbing along nicely

Chief sports reporter DAVID PRITCHARD talks to bob skeleton racer Lizzy Yarnold, who has made a big impression in her first season on the circuit, culminating in her clinching silver medal in the junior world championships, held in Utah last weekend

THE SPORT may have been an alien concept to her until relatively recently but Lizzy Yarnold's first winter competing in bob skeleton finished with global recognition last weekend.

Despite a gulf in experience between the 22-year-old and most of her competitors, she tore up the form book to win a silver medal at the junior world championships.

The novice almost found her way to the top step of the podium with the fastest second run in the field, missing out on gold by one hundredth of a second to Canada's Robynne Thompson.

Reflecting on the success in Saturday's championships, held on the 2002 Winter Olympic track at Park City, Utah, Yarnold's focus is on winning silver, rather than missing out on gold.

Experience

She said: "It was absolutely fantastic. The girl who won had been in eight competitions at that track alone, so had done more than 200 runs, where as I had never been there before. In terms of my lack of experience I was really over the moon with what I was able to achieve."

It provided a remarkable end to the season, which began in November with Yarnold's first international competition. She quickly settled into the rigours of the Europa Cup, winning both races in Igls, Austria, on her way to finishing the series second in the overall standings.

While many of her other competitors from Europe's traditional winter sport heartlands have been sliding virtually since they could walk, Yarnold had barely heard of bob skeleton until 2008.

Growing up in West Kingsdown the emphasis had been on a variety of more mainstream sports, especially athletics. It changed with entry into UK Sport's Girls4Gold talent identification scheme, set up to channel talent into sports struggling to attract fresh blood.

Although the idea of hurtling down an icy pipe face first at up to 90 miles per hour on a glorified tea tray may not be everyone's cup of tea, it appealed to Yarnold straight away.

She said: "I didn't have a clue what it was, but the others they suggested were all quite normal – rowing, swimming, cycling, modern pentathlon. Skeleton was up my street because I've always been a bit of a speed freak.

"There's only one way in and one way out so you just have to hold on and go for it. It can be quite hard to get your head around because you spend a lot of time preparing to get focused for only a couple of minutes at a time."

Gold

Britain does not have a track of its own, but has won medals at the last three Winter Olympics. Amy Williams' gold in Vancouver last year followed up on the successes of Shelley Rudman's silver in 2006 and Alex Coomber's bronze four years earlier.

Williams and Rudman are still in the senior team, but Yarnold, who is back home working on a dissertation to finish her degree, has one eye on getting a seat on the plane to the Games in Sochi, Russia, in 2014.

She said: "We have gold and silver medal winners in our team so selection is quite competitive and those two are exceptional athletes. Getting to 2014 is a very nice goal to have though."

FAST TRACK: Lizzy Yarnold capped an amazing first season in the bob skeleton with world junior championships silver

Kent sport stars have their say on twitter

The pick of this week's tweets from the county's sports stars

EVERYONE knows the importance of eating the right sorts of food before exercise, don't they? It's just a shame no one told superbike rider Leon Camier, who admitted his choice of breakfast before an epic cycle ride with Team Sky rider Simon Gerrans may not have been ideal.

@leoncamier: "Nice 4.15 hour ride with @simongerrans today, note to self a bowl of golden grahams isnt enough when training with the big boys!!!"

KENT skipper Rob Key's not saying Sam Northeast's posh, but…

@robkey612: "Please follow @sanortheast Sam northeast. Kents very own chumley warner. Not a bad batsmen either.

"Just seen @sanortheast he said he can't tweet much at the moment as his butler is off sick but will get him to type for him when he's back."

REMEMBER that sleepy feeling at school which came over you every week in double French? Well now you know how Dame Kelly Holmes felt as she turned to her Twitter followers for inspiration to beat those heavy eyelids.

@damekellyholmes: "How do you keep yourself awake in an all day meeting when the room is warm and you have been sitting still for most of time??

"I survived the meeting thanks for tips- Coffee (I don't like it) walking around (went to the loo a few times!) matchsticks (umm don't smoke)."

YOU might think after several weeks away playing cricket for England's in Australia that Susie Rowe would be looking to go home. Then again…

@susierowe6: "oh how i can't wait to get back to the delights of my hometown that is lewisham, it's so much nicer than sydney, NOT!"

*Follow us at **www.twitter.com/kentsport** for the latest sports news from around the county*

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

WELLINGTON BOOT: Dan Caprice and England were beaten by the All Blacks

World sevens final defeat for Caprice and England

THE battle for rugby sevens world domination looks to be a two-horse race after Dan Caprice and England lost to New Zealand in the Wellington final last weekend.

Having won the first event of the World Series in Dubai, England saw their lead pegged back as the All Blacks triumphed in South Africa before taking the top prize on home soil.

Caprice, born in Chatham, again played a leading role as England reached their third consecutive final but the visitors were no match for New Zealand and Declan O'Donnell, whose hat-trick helped wrap up a 29-14 win.

England's first game featured a Caprice try as they beat the United States 31-12, before they saw off the Cook Islands 21-17. The Red Roses stepped up their game to beat Wales 33-7 in their final group match, setting up a quarter-final with Argentina.

The pace of Caprice, a former Sevenoaks schoolboy, has been one of England's key weapons in recent times but they relied on magnificent defence to see off the Argentines and then reigning world champions Samoa in the last-four.

Pitted against New Zealand in the final, England scored two early tries but the hosts came roaring back to claim the title.

The World Series heads to Las Vegas this weekend. England and Caprice will compete in Pool A, alongside Argentina, France and Guyana.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

STEP UP: Ben Ransom

Ransom victory in England U20 debut

LIFE as an under-20 international got off to a winning start for Ben Ransom on Saturday as England held on to win their Six Nations opener against Wales.

Ransom, having stepped up from the successful under-18 group, was handed a starting role by coach Rob Hunter for the tournament curtain-raiser at the Parc y Scarlets in Llanelli.

The former Tonbridge schoolboy has forced his way into the 1st XV reckoning with his Premiership club, Saracens, in recent months, and he will be keen to tie down a regular starting spot with England during the under-20 championship.

England fell behind early to an Edward Higgardy try but Matt Kvesic scored twice before the interval and Alex Gray added to the England tally to hand the visitors a 26-13 advantage.

Despite a late Wales try, they held on for a 26-20 triumph and Ransom, who played the full 80 minutes, will be looking to make headlines of his own as the championship progresses.

WORLD CHAMPION: George Digweed

George blasts way to 18th world crown

CLAY pigeon shooter George Digweed is celebrating his 18th world title after taking gold in New Zealand last weekend.

Digweed, who runs his own shoot in Owley, near Tenterden, topped an all-British podium at the World Championships, ahead of second-placed Mark Marshall and Chris Childerhouse, who took bronze.

With 200 clay targets to shoot across the two days of competition, Digweed scored 87 on Saturday and returned to claim the top prize on Sunday with a score of 92.

Having embarked on a 38-hour journey to compete in Auckland, he was delighted to have come through victorious.

Digweed said: "I'm really proud of my performance and considering the physical exhaustion I was going through, I'd certainly rank it as one of my best."

Rugby U20s in bid for knockout stage

VICTORY at home to Sussex this weekend will send Kent's under-20 rugby team through to the knockout stages of the national championship.

Handed a tough trip to defending champions Surrey last weekend, tries from Dan Hamilton, Harry Fry, Will Alkin and Charlie Hopkins earned Kent a hugely impressive bonus-point win as they ran out 26-20 victors.

Kent head coach Taff Gwilliam was full of praise for his side, who will top Group C of the London & South East section with victory against Sussex at Old Elthamians RFC on Sunday.

"It was very impressive," he said. "There's no harder place to go in a championship than to the defending champions so to win in their back yard, the result speaks for itself. They beat us convincingly last year so it was very nice to go back and edge them out in a thriller."

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

TOP VENUE: Swimming at Medway Park

Swimmers eyeing championship win

A MONTH of fierce swimming competition gets under way this weekend as the county's top clubs take to the pool for the first round of the Kent County ASA Championships.

The top competitors in Kent will compete across 14 sessions at Medway Park and the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, with swimmers aged between nine and 18 looking to grab individual glory.

Beckenham will be looking to defend their team titles after pipping Black Lion and Thanet to top spot in the boys' and girls' competitions respectively last year.

Dallas eyes Tyson fight

Heavyweight hoping for English title shot against fellow unbeaten star Fury

By STEVE TERVET

UNDEFEATED heavyweight Tom Dallas is eyeing a lucrative bout with English champion Tyson Fury after extending his unblemished professional record last weekend.

The 25-year-old, who knocked out German journeyman Werner Kreiskott in the first round of their clash last Saturday, believes he is destined to meet Fury as he looks to break into the elite group of British heavyweights.

Fury, ranked third nationally, has already mentioned Dallas as a possible opponent after struggling to find anyone willing to face him.

With 13 straight professional wins, the outspoken Mancunian has an identical record to Dallas and the Chatham roofer believes the pair are edging closer to a high-profile date in the ring.

All mouth

Dallas said: "They always say he'll not fight anyone but it's a fact that we'll end up fighting sooner or later.

"If I fought Fury, it'd be great because he's got all the mouth and it'd be a good build-up, so I know it'd be a good fight and I think I could beat him. I've proved myself, I've had 13 fights and I've got some experience, so I'm ready to step up now."

Dallas made light work of Kreiskott in Brentwood last weekend, putting the 32-year-old on the canvas twice with a storm of body shots. It prompted the referee to call a halt less than two minutes into the one-sided contest.

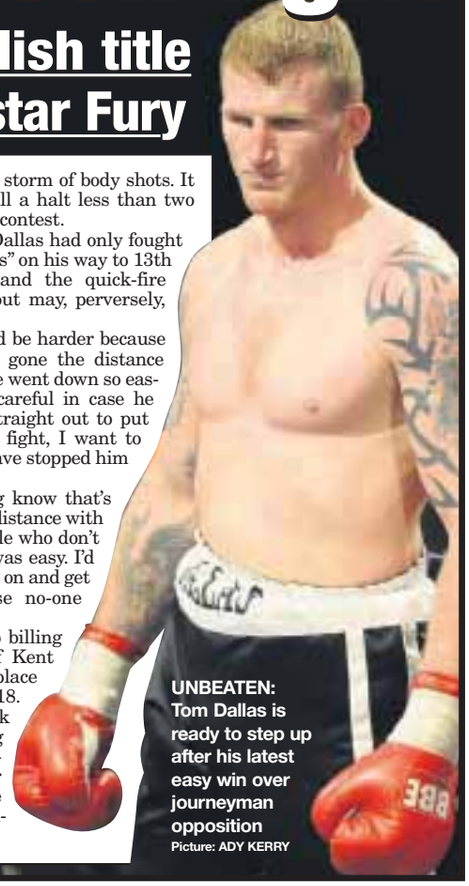
Fury claimed this week Dallas had only fought "no-hopers in one round jobs" on his way to 13th in the British rankings and the quick-fire nature of the Kreiskott bout may, perversely, have counted against him.

Dallas said: "I thought it'd be harder because everyone kept saying he'd gone the distance before, so I was surprised he went down so easily. My corner said to be careful in case he came out fast, so I went straight out to put something on him. In any fight, I want to stop them but I'd liked to have stopped him at least in the fourth.

"People that know boxing know that's good because he's gone the distance with some good names, but people who don't know boxing will think it was easy. I'd say to them, 'get your gloves on and get in there yourself' because no-one wants to get knocked out."

Next up for Dallas is top billing at the rearranged Men of Kent show which will now take place at Medway Park on March 18.

Meanwhile, promoter Frank Maloney is hopeful of pitting Dallas against British number six Martin Rogan later this year in what would be his toughest test since turning professional in 2008.



UNBEATEN: Tom Dallas is ready to step up after his latest easy win over journeyman opposition

Picture: ADY KERRY

Work begins on £8m cycling park

THE CONSTRUCTION of the biggest cycle park in the country is officially under way, with work officially starting last week.

The £8million Cyclopark project on the outskirts of Gravesend will be one of the biggest in Europe once it is completed.

At 43 hectares it will be three times the size of the Olympic Legacy Velopark in east London, with a specialist BMX track and skate park alongside circuits for both mountain bike and road racing.

Sports minister Hugh Robertson, MP for Faversham and Mid Kent, was present as work began.

"Cyclopark is going to be a huge draw for Kent and the wider south east and I'm delighted to officially mark the beginning of its construction," he said. "It is vital that we provide the facilities for local people to enjoy sport and keep fit and healthy."

The park has had a number of high-profile backers, including Olympic gold medallist Jamie Staff and the Tour de France stage winner David Millar. Due to be completed next year, it is a scaled down version of the original plans for an £11million venue, which were changed in 2009 when Sport England turned down a request for £6 million of funding.

ON TRACK: Hugh Robertson (in digger) at the opening day of work at the Cyclopark

To the relief of project manager Lawrence Tricker, a revised bid was accepted and Kent County Council, the European Union and British Cycling have also backed the scheme, which is projected to attract 100,000 cyclists a year.

Tricker said: "It will have outstanding world-class facilities for both residents in the area, the community of Kent, and beyond."

An estimated 9.5 million people live within an hour's drive of the site, meaning Cyclopark, rather than the Olympic Velopark, will be in pole position to be the long term replacement for the Eastway race circuit, which was ripped up to make way for the Olympic site at Stratford.

Tricker says discussions have also taken place with teams looking to use the park for their preparations for the 2012 Olympics. In the build up to the 2007 Tour de France the absence of a similar facility meant many teams were forced to train in heavy traffic in London.

Motorbase Porsche duo set for title charge

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

LINE-UP: Motorbase Porsche aim to mount a serious bid for title honours this season

MOTORBASE Performance have signed the two most successful drivers from last season's Porsche Carrera Cup as they look to dominate the 2011 championship.

The Wrotham-based team, owned by David Bartrum, have drafted in reigning champion Tim Harvey from Red Line Racing, four years after he ended his first spell with Motorbase.

Harvey, a former Tonbridge schoolboy, will add further weight to Motorbase's defence of their team title although his strongest challenge for the individual crown is likely to come from team-mate Michael Caine.

With seven race wins in the 2010 Carrera Cup, Caine finished just 10 points behind Harvey, and Bartrum, while excited by his impressive line-up, admits he has a juggling act on his hands.

"Adding Tim Harvey alongside Michael Caine means we've got a lot of experience and it's a fantastic line-up," Bartrum said. "They both know us very well and they know each other very well because they were together for a year in 2006 before Tim went off to do other things.

"At some point, we'll know which is the stronger driver and they're both experienced enough to know that one will back the other. We'll deal with it when the time comes although it may take a bit of lion-taming."

RUGBY preview

By FRED ATKINS

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

SLUMP: Canterbury lost to Newbury

Combe on trail of big win over league leaders

WESTCOMBE Park face their toughest game of a turbulent National 2 South campaign this afternoon as league leaders Ealing Trailfinders visit Goddington Dene.

Asked if there were any chinks in Ealing's armour, Combe's director of rugby, Steve Reynolds, said: "None whatsoever, so it's going to be a very big ask. They're pretty much a fully-professional unit, so we'll be looking to get one or two [bonus] points from the game."

In National 1, Blackheath welcome mid-table Sedgley Park while Canterbury, who landed the unwanted achievement last week of becoming the first team this season to lose to Newbury, are away at Worthing.

Coach Danny Vaughan admits he is worried by his side's slump in form.

"Everyone says we're too good to go down, but every year a lot of good teams get relegated," he said. "A normal league day away at Worthing would be tough but they won at Taunton last week and the way they are going I expect it's going to be very tough. We're going to have to play very well to get anything out of it."

It now seems a question of when, rather than if, Tonbridge Juddians secure promotion from London 1 South and the leaders, 13 points clear, have a rearranged game with Portsmouth at The Slade today.

In London 3 South East, the bottom two face each other. Dartfordians, who won just their second game of the season last week, 22-19 over Eastbourne, host Cranbrook, who haven't won since early October. The Cranes crashed 13-58 at home to Charlton Park last week.

In Kent 1, leaders Ashford are at fourth-placed Gillingham Anchorians who are looking to extend their 11-point lead over Sheppey, who are without a fixture.

FIXTURES

NATIONAL 1: Blackheath v Sedgley Park
NATIONAL 2 SOUTH: Westcombe Park v Ealing Trailfinders, Worthing v Canterbury.
NATIONAL 3 LONDON & SE: Gravesend v Diss
LONDON 1 SOUTH: Beckenham v London Irish Amateur, Dover v Wimbledon, Thanet Wanderers v Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge Juddian v Portsmouth
LONDON 2 SOUTH EAST: Aylesford Bulls v Old Mid-Whitgiftians, Old Dunstonians v Maidstone, Purley John Fisher v Sevenoaks
LONDON 3 SOUTH EAST: Bromley v Medway, Dartfordians v Cranbrook, Folkestone v Heathfield & Waldron
KENT 1: Gillingham Anchorians v Ashford, HSBC v Lordswood, New Ash Green v Old Gravesendians, Sittingbourne v Beccehamian, Vigo v Whitstable
KENT 2: Bexley v Brockleaians, Erith v Askeans, Old Williamsonians v Foots Cray, Orpington v Kings

Can Darts shock Braintree again?

By FRED ATKINS

Braintree Town v Dartford

KICK-OFF 3PM AT CRESSING ROAD STADIUM

UNDER normal circumstances a trip to the runaway leaders of the Conference South might cause some trepidation, but Dartford have more reason than most to feel confident this afternoon.

The Darts produced a superb display with 10 men to pull off one of the results of the season in beating Braintree Town 1-0 in the reverse fixture at Princes Park last week.

It was a result which had an impact at both ends of the table, helping Dartford ease away from the prospect of a dogfight to avoid relegation.

They will also travel to Essex buoyed by Tuesday night's win at Weston-super-Mare, where Charlie Sheringham's 70th-minute strike earned a 1-0 win to claim another precious three points.

Improved

Notwithstanding his red card against Braintree, Sheringham's improved form has been noticeable in recent games and Darts boss Tony Burman believes an air of gloom has been banished from the club.

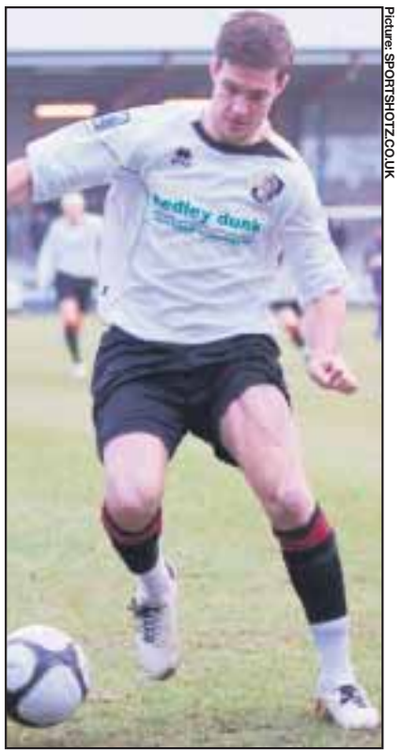
"I think there was a bit of negativity about the place, on and off the field," he said. "But we've got control of that and turned it into a positive thing. On and off the field people have pulled together and we're more confident now."

Having won their last four league games the Darts, now 15th, have opened up a seven-point cushion over the bottom three to gain some breathing space.

Burman said: "They [Braintree] are walking away with the title really and to be 10 points clear at this stage of the season is no mean feat, but the pressure is off us, we've got a number of players who've played for Braintree and we can go there to enjoy it."

Billy Burgess could return and Jon Main (calf) should be back after missing Tuesday's match, but Lee Noble completes his suspension and Adam Burchell remains sidelined.

Picture: SPORTSHOTZ.CO.UK



RETURN: Jon Main should be available after recovering from a calf problem

Injuries hinder Whites' hopes of a super result

Dover Athletic v Weston-super-Mare

KICK-OFF 3PM AT CRABBLE

MARTIN Hayes has defensive worries for this afternoon's visit of Weston-super-Mare.

The Dover manager lost Danny Kelly to an illness midway through Tuesday's 2-1 home defeat to Conference South leaders Braintree. Tom Wynter also limped off late on with a dead leg, while Olly Schulz (knee) and Rob Gillman (groin) are also struggling.

The timing could hardly be worse for Hayes, who allowed Dean Hill to join Margate before the Braintree game, but he was able to sign the former QPR defender Dominic Shimmin, who could make his debut today.

"He gives us a little bit of experience," said Hayes. "We are leaking too many goals at the moment, so he's come in and I'm sure he will figure."

Hayes made no excuses for Tuesday's defeat.

He said: "In the second-half we asked lots of questions of them and I thought we were going to sneak an equaliser when we pulled one back, but we can't keep giving gifts to other sides."

However, he believes this weekend's game should be far more open.

"[Weston] are very up and down and have been involved in some high-scoring games," said Hayes.

"By all accounts they like to play football, which should be good for us because very few sides come to Dover to play. Braintree were happy to have nine men behind the ball."

Picture: SIMON HARRIS

DOUBTFUL: Dover Athletic's Danny Kelly could be kept out of today's game by illness

RYMAN LEAGUE GAME OF THE DAY

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

RELEGATION FIGHT: Folkestone Invicta

Invicta bidding to put dent in Cray promotion hopes

Folkestone Invicta v Cray Wanderers

KICK-OFF 3PM AT CHERITON ROAD

THE ONLY Kent derby in the Ryman League today sees relegation-threatened Folkestone Invicta host a Cray Wanderers side pushing for promotion at Cheriton Road.

Invicta are looking to bounce back from a disappointing defeat at Carshalton last Saturday, when they succumbed to an 89th-minute winner.

Cray's focus remains on getting out of the Premier Division the right way and they were impressive 4-0 winners at Horsham on Tuesday night.

Veteran former Tonbridge manager Tony Dolby scored twice, while Leigh Bremner and Danny Phillips also hit the target to keep Cray seventh, a point off the play-off places.

Invicta boss Neil Cugley, perhaps wisely, was not there to see it: "I'm not a great watcher at the moment," he joked. "I've got enough problems worrying about my own team."

Robbie Kember (thigh) could miss out but otherwise Folkestone have no new injuries to report and Cugley is relishing the chance to renew the rivalry with Cray.

He said: "They're a good footballing side who always play the right way, so it's one of the games I always look forward to.

"They've got good backing from the people up there and the club is run the right way, with a good catchment area and a very good pitch, which all helps."

Invicta are 19th, one point and one place from safety.

FIXTURES

SATURDAY

(All games kick-off 3pm unless stated)

LEAGUE TWO: Crewe Alexandra v Gillingham
CONFERENCE SOUTH: Braintree Town v Dartford, Dover Athletic v Weston-super-Mare, Hampton & Richmond Borough v Welling United, Havant & Waterlooville v Ebbsfleet United
RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION: Croydon Athletic v Tonbridge Angels, Folkestone Invicta v Cray Wanderers, Hendon v Maidstone United, Horsham v Margate
RYMAN DIVISION 1 SOUTH: Chatham Town v Whyteleafe, Corinthian Casuals v Faversham Town, Ramsgate v Horsham YMCA, Sittingbourne v Met Police, Whitstable Town v Merstham
KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Corinthian v Tunbridge Wells, Erith & Belvedere v Fisher, Erith Town v Beckenham Town, Holmesdale v Deal Town, Hythe Town v Sporting Bengal, Sevenoaks Town v Lordswood, VCD Athletic v Greenwich Borough
PREMIER DIVISION CUP QUARTER-FINAL SECOND LEG: Norton Sports v Herne Bay (1.30pm)

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Raiders' visit a 'massive' test of Mos' reign

INVICTA Dynamos face one of their most important regular season games in years as they host Wightlink Raiders tomorrow evening.

The Mos are in real danger of losing their grip on the National League Division One South title and head into the game six points adrift of the islanders.

They have three games in hand, but defeat would leave them with a mountain to climb in the final six weeks of the campaign.

Kevin Parrish, Mos' head coach, said: "It's massive. We need to keep winning, it's as simple as that.

"If we can win it would put a bit of pressure on them because they haven't been in this position for a few seasons.

"The players won't need any motivational speeches from me because if you can't get yourself up for this game you shouldn't be playing ice hockey."

Fit-again Tim Smith could return to bolster the blue line, but Anthony Lennon's knee injury will keep him out.

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SAT SOUTH

Tough test on the road for Fleet at Hawks

Picture: DAVID PLUMB

RESTED: Craig Stone should return for Ebbsfleet today

Havant & Waterlooville v Ebbsfleet United

KICK-OFF 3PM AT WESTLEIGH PARK

EBBSFLEET United's away form has so often been their saving grace this season and manager Liam Daish knows his players must reproduce their best form to beat in-form Havant & Waterlooville.

The Hawks did Daish's side a favour last weekend as they scored a surprise 2-1 win at high-flying Chelmsford City, but there will be no quarter given today as the Fleet aim to cement their place in the play-off spots.

Having lost only one league game on the road all season, Ebbsfleet travel in confident mood, but they face a Havant side still harbouring faint promotion ambitions, winning three of their last four.

"It'll be tough down there," Daish said. "I know individually they've got good players but our away record is decent. I'm not saying I'm happy to be away or anything like that, we know we need to improve our home form but it's quite a fine line."

Havant striker Giuseppe Sole, who has five goals to his name since the turn of the year, is a particularly familiar face for Daish, having shone during a loan spell with Ebbsfleet in 2009.

Craig Stone should return to the visitors' squad after being rested for Tuesday's 2-2 draw with Eastleigh, a result which saw Daish's side fall 10 points behind Conference South leaders Braintree Town.

The Fleet boss said: "They're ahead and it's their [title] to lose, but we've just got to get a result on Saturday and apply the pressure. Every team will have different problems and we need to be ready to take advantage."

THE GRADI BUNCH UP NEXT FOR GILLS

Hess confident of win against high-flying Crewe

By DAVID PRITCHARD

Crewe Alexandra v Gillingham

KICK-OFF 3PM AT THE ALEXANDRA STADIUM

THE BIG games keep coming for Gillingham as they visit another of their rivals for promotion in League Two this afternoon.

A trip to Crewe Alexandra is one of the tougher assignments in the division, but the Gills have arguably timed their visit perfectly.

The visitors come into the fixture on the back of a 3-1 win against high-flying Rotherham on Tuesday, thanks to one of their best displays of the season. It lifted them up to a season-high sixth in the table, while Crewe are suffering a blip, with three defeats in their last four games.

Dario Gradi's fluent side were hugely impressive as they won 3-1 at Priestfield in November, but Hessenthaler believes no-one will relish coming up against the Gills after a strong recent run.

Pressure

He said: "Our away form is very good now after being the worst around at one stage. We've only lost one in seven away from home and Crewe have had a bit of a sticky spell of late with a couple of losses and they've conceded a few goals.

"From having a bit of pressure on Tuesday, where we needed to get a win, it's over to them. We should go up there full of confidence and hopefully we can exploit them because they are under a bit of pressure."

Gillingham experimented with a narrow midfield diamond against Rotherham, which gave them an added dimension when in possession. It is designed to get the best out of Curtis Weston, one of the squad's most gifted but inconsistent players, but Hessenthaler is in two minds whether it is wise to adopt the same shape today.

Picture: ADY KERRY

DIAMOND: Midfielder Curtis Weston was given added attacking licence by a change in formation in midweek, although Gillingham may switch tactics against Crewe

He said: "They're a passing team and you have to be very careful because they can hurt you. We'll have to think very carefully about our team selection and the way we play."

The trip comes too soon for Andy Barcham, whose ankle problem has still not cleared up, while Joe Martin will be out for several weeks after fracturing a cheekbone in training.

Garry Richards received an injection on his ankle this week but should be fit to play, while Tony Sinclair could be available after several weeks out.

Matt Lawrence's thigh strain means there is likely to be one enforced change to the starting line-up from Tuesday.

It provides a chance for Simon King to take the veteran's place after replacing him in midweek, making his first appearance in 20 months after recovering from a career-threatening ankle injury.

The defender should be fine to play despite not training between the games. He is delighted to return and thinks the squad is stronger now than when he helped them to promotion out of the division two years ago.

He said: "To be honest the lungs didn't feel too bad, I was starting to get a little bit tired towards the end, but it was great to get back out there.

"I think we have a very strong squad at the minute. We have got strength in depth and I really think we can kick on if we can keep this confidence going. Chesterfield have a bit of a lead but I think second and third place are still up for grabs."

Log on to www.kentsport.co.uk from 2pm for the latest team news, reports and reaction from today's games and for updates follow us at twitter.com/kentsport

Pure weddings

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Welcome to Pure weddings

IT seems 2011 is shaping up to be the year of the wedding.

Spearheaded by the eagerly anticipated royal wedding in April between Kate Middleton and Prince William, the news agenda will focus on all the pomp and ceremony that the biggest day of your life brings with it.

But for many this year, the royal wedding is merely an aperitif to their own nuptials, and whether you are planning to tie the knot on a grand scale with hundreds of guests, or a more intimate setting with just close family present, there is so much to prepare to make it perfect.

Which is where Pure Weddings comes in. We are your indispensable guide to making your wedding match your dream.

Because Kent is the ideal county in which to mark your momentous occasion in pure style.

Steeped in history and oozing picturesque venues and locations, the Garden of England has everything you need.

And within these pages you will find some of the finest local suppliers of goods and services to make your day one to remember forever.

From caterers to photographers, venues to suppliers, Pure Weddings is your ideal starting point – or a generator of ideas if your big day is just around the corner.

Plus we take a look at some of the traditions surrounding weddings, a special look at royal bride-to-be Kate Middleton's links to Kent and a special look at some honeymoon suggestions – ranging from a gentle boat trip through France to more exotic beach and city locations.

We are blessed to live in a county teeming with wonderful opportunities – so make the most of them and make your special day extra special.

Cover photography by Matthew Stansfield

Contents

6 **Lucky Days...** intriguing superstitions around the big occasion
7 - 8 **Location, Location...** choose a venue with a difference
9 **A Secret History...** Kent's links with this year's royal wedding
10 - 11 **Capturing the Moment...** select the right photographer
12 - 15 **The Perfect Getaway...** glorious honeymoon destinations
16 **Reader offer...** win **£2,000** off your dream honeymoon
18 - 19 **Wedding Market Place...** how to make your wedding the best

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Lucky Days

THERE is perhaps no other ceremony in the world which continues to surround itself with such a diverse range of superstitions, both old and new, as that of a wedding.

After all, whether it's the requirement to wear 'something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, and a silver sixpence in her shoe' or simply for the groom not to catch a glimpse of his bride-to-be on the morning of the big day, it can prove something of a real minefield.

So what are some of the main ones, where do they originate, and should you take any notice of them?

We take a look at the top 10…

- **White weddings**
  Despite popular belief, a white wedding dress does not represent virginity. As ever, it is trend set. Queen Victoria was the first, wearing a white gown that set the trend for years later. Just don't be tempted, brides-to-be, to create your own wedding outfit – apparently it's bad luck!
- **Carrying the bride over the threshold**
  An oldie but a goodie. And practical too. The bride should be lifted into the home for one reason only – to prevent her from tripping. To stumble in that first significant step is seen as a bad omen.
- **Engagement ring**
  We have the Romans to thank for this one. Following their conversion to Christianity they introduced the practice of wearing a ring on the third finger of the left hand – a finger the Greeks believed was connected to the heart.
- **Throwing the bouquet**
  Once upon a time, in medieval times, guests attending weddings believed the bride's outfit brought good luck so would look to remove parts of it. Understandably, this didn't always go down well, so over the years it has been refined. Rather than the clothes being left in tatters, there was a move to carefully hand out parts of the outfit. Today only the bouquet remains and therefore is tossed into the crowd. Legend has it that whatever single woman catches the bouquet inherits the luck and will be next to walk up the aisle.
- **Attaching cans/shoes to the back of the bride and groom's car**
  Dating back to medieval times, the noise the cans create are said to ward off evil spirits. Meanwhile, tying shoes to the car dates back to Tudor times when guests would hurl shoes at the happy couple with good luck bestowed upon them if the missiles hit the carriage in which they were riding.
- **Flowers**
  Another medieval tradition which stems back to when a knight would wear his wife-to-be's colours as a sign of his love. Today the groom should wear a flower that appears in the bridal bouquet.
- **Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue…**
  Perhaps the most famous of all superstitions, this originates from Victorian times. The 'old' represents the bride's life before marriage, the 'new' symbolising new beginnings. The 'borrowed' brings good luck from someone happily married. The 'blue' harks back to an ancient Israeli tradition, where the bride wore a blue ribbon as a symbol of her fidelity. The often forgotten 'sixpence in the shoe' final line suggests a prosperous future.
- **Bridesmaid**
  Effectively the bodyguard to the bride, the bridesmaid has traditionally dressed in a similar style to the bride since Roman times. Then it was felt similar clothing would confuse evil spirits intent on inflicting bad luck to the bride.
- **Best man**
  The origins of this particular tradition may not sit too comfortably with the modern woman. There are two tales to the origin of having a best man. The first is that centuries ago, selecting a wife was a rather more brutal affair. If her family did not approve, well, the man would forcefully take her. When trying to tie the knot, this rather extreme step would, obviously, not sit too well with the bride-to-be's family… so the best man would be there to fend off any attacks or attempts to grab her back.
  The other claim is that in ancient times, when each woman was fought over keenly, men would simply trot over to a neighbouring village and kidnap a poor unfortunate girl. Such was the struggle they may encounter, they would recruit a good friend to provide some extra muscle… and only the best would be good enough… hence the name, best man.
- **Father giving his daughter away**
  Another one which may be frowned upon in today's society. But once upon a time daughters were considered the property of their father and the marriage was more a deal than a partnership; the father effectively transferring ownership to the groom.

The most significant thing to remember? You make your own luck.

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Location Location...

THERE is so much to take into account when preparing for a wedding – there's choosing the dress, arranging the flowers, the rings, and of course, the small detail of the catering and just who to invite.

So it is sometimes easy to forget the basics – actually choosing what sort of ceremony you want and how you go about organising it.

For example, is your dream to be married in your local church? Or perhaps you would rather plump for a civil ceremony, staged in a location of your choosing?

The options for couples in Kent are now wide and varied.

At the last count there were well over 200 venues in the county licensed to hold weddings, hotels, civic buildings, even theatres and wild animal parks.

Or perhaps a lighthouse, a windmill or a treehouse is more your thing. Approved premises aim to appeal to everyone and can add a real twist of individuality – suiting the moods and style of the couple.

But outside of church services – which will require the couple to liaise with the religious venue of their choosing – Kent County Council is responsible for providing civil marriages in the county and licensing the premises.

These services are provided by the Kent Registration Service and have no religious elements.

Indeed, it is becoming increasingly popular for couples to wed somewhere capable of accommodating all guests for both the vows and the reception afterwards. With many offering the option of rooms to stay in for the night, too, they can prove the ideal one-stop location.

They prove particularly popular with guests, too, who can head to one location and enjoy the venue for the entire day.

Even some of the most prestigious venues will allow couples and their guests exclusive use of the facilities – so you don't have to share your big day with visitors.

Alternatively, you can simply get married in a register office - which most major towns boast - and then select the ideal venue afterwards.

So you've decided to tie the knot and want to arrange a service. What next?

If you wish to be married in a Church of England venue, you should first speak to the vicar. You will generally only be able to do this if you or your partner live in the parish. If the vicar is able and willing to marry you, arrangements will be made for the Banns (a traditional announcement made in church) to be called on three Sundays before the day of your ceremony or for a common licence to be issued.

The vicar will also register the marriage and

Fancy a wedding at a wildlife park?

Continued on page 8

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there is generally no need to involve the local register office.

If you wish to be married by religious ceremony, other than in a Church of England venue, you should first arrange to see the minister or other person in charge of marriages at the building. However, the church or religious building in question must normally be in the registration district where you or your partner lives or be your usual place of worship. It will also be necessary for both of you to give legal preliminaries (notice of marriage) at the register office in the district(s) where you live. A registrar may also need to attend and register the ceremony.

If you want a civil service, the first step is to choose the venue, date and time. Services can be conducted between 8am and 5pm by registration staff – and the earlier you book it up and specify your venue, the better.

Remember, the most popular venues will be in constant demand, and summer weekends in particular will be booked up well in advance.

To arrange a marriage ceremony in a venue the couple should visit it and complete their booking procedures. The wedding co-ordinator will then contact the local register office. Couples will then receive a letter from the office advising them about the legal preliminaries to marriage, what they need to do next, and the documents and fees that are required.

Fees are payable for the Notice of Marriage, attendance of registration staff at the ceremony, a rehearsal or pre-marriage meeting (optional) and the marriage certificate.

Documents you will need to provide include: passports or birth certificates, a divorce decree (if previously married), a dissolution order (if previously in a civil partnership), plus certificates or other documentation to confirm marital and civil partnership status, residence, nationality and names.

You may need to provide other details if required.

Current ceremony fees for Monday to Friday are £386. Weekends and bank holidays are £524 and if you want to tie the knot on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day it is £600. There is an additional booking confirmation fee of £50. All these prices are subject to change, so check first.

There will be an extra charge for legal preliminaries (notices to be given by both people), and for certificates and a rehearsal if they are required. Speak to the ceremonies team regarding these charges.

A ceremony amendment fee of £20 is chargeable for any changes to the ceremony arrangements.

If you cancel your booking, a cancellation fee of £40 will be payable.

If, of course, you would rather marry abroad then you will need to check with the authorities of the country you are getting married in as to what legal preliminaries are required of you.

This will vary from country to country and depend on your own nationality.

Some countries require you to give notice of marriage in this country - this is known as a certificate of no impediment. This may be obtained by giving legal preliminaries (notice of marriage) to your local register office.

A marriage solemnised in accordance with the local law of a foreign country cannot be registered in this country.

If possible, you should register your marriage with the British Embassy/Consulate in the country in which you get married, at the time you get married.

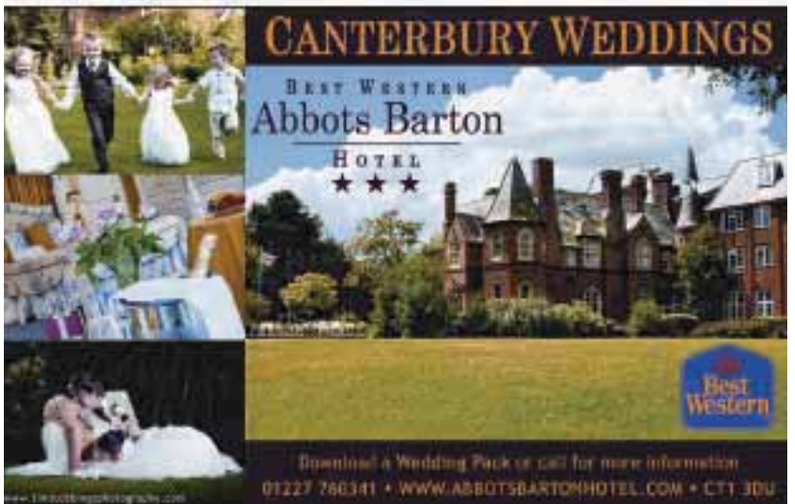
This means that you can then obtain a copy of your marriage certificate in this country if you ever need one. It is always advisable to obtain more than one marriage certificate when being married abroad.

Whilst legally recognised, marriages abroad cannot be registered for British subjects in the UK. However, it may be possible for the record of an overseas marriage to be lodged at the General Register Office. See the General Register Office website www.gro.gov.uk for further details.

If you are in any doubt, contact your local register office and they will advise you.

And after you've done all that, of course, there is just the small matter of that guest list.

The beautiful Leeds Castle



A Secret History

APRIL 29 will be a day quite unlike any other this year.

The focus of the world will be on London, and across Kent there will be celebrations to mark the marriage of Prince William and his long-time love, Kate Middleton.

The pair announced their big day back in November, and since then anticipation has been building – as well as April 29 becoming a hugely popular day for couples to tie the knot.

But few are aware that Miss Middleton, 28, has Kent ancestry. Or that she may have some royal blood already.

Kate and William

Catherine Elizabeth Middleton, to give her full name, breaks the three-and-a-half century record set when Anne Hyde wed the Duke of York, who was later crowned James II, in 1660.

Researchers William Addams Reitwiesner and Michael J Wood have compiled her family tree and it has emerged Kate had plenty of family in Kent.

Her great-great-grandfather Frederick John Glassborow was born in Nelson Terrace, Haggerstone, Middlesex, on February 22, 1859.

He was a commercial clerk, rising to become a shipping manager in 1920.

Glassborow died at Homeleigh, Lismore Road in Beltinge, near Herne Bay, on December 21, 1932.

A great-great-great-grandfather was building labourer and brickmaker John Goldsmith, born in Maidstone, in 1827. He died tragically from internal strangulation, a bowel condition, in Islington in June, 1888.

With details becoming slightly more vague, Kate had a great-great-great-great-grandfather, again called John Goldsmith, who was born in Kent in 1783. He was in the building trade and was a carpenter - he died around 1851.

He was married to Rebecca, who was born in Maidstone in 1796 and died from bronchitis while at Church Street, Tovil, on December 29, 1869.

Under a section labelled 'plausible continuation of the ancestry of Kate Middleton' by the researchers, she has under 14 'greats' some noble blood in the guise of Thomas Boleyn, 1st Earl of Wiltshire, who was born in 1477 at Hever and died at Hever Castle, on March 12, 1538 or 1539.

The father of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII, was a diplomat and politician whose grandfather Geoffrey Boleyn, a wealthy mercer, had purchased the Kent manor home.

Boleyn was the maternal grandfather of Queen Elizabeth I.

Hever said it was fascinating to be told by KoS of their apparent Royal link.

Hever historian Anna Spender said: "Thomas Boleyn is Kate's 14th-generation great-grandparent. He had three children together with his wife Elizabeth Howard: Mary, mistress of Henry VIII; Anne, second wife of Henry VIII and mother of Queen Elizabeth I; and George. The children spent their childhood at Hever Castle.

"In 2011, Hever Castle is holding an exhibition of families who lived at the castle over the centuries, including the Boleyn family.

"Prince William and his fiancée, Kate Middleton, are distantly related, 12th cousins once removed, and are descended from the Boleyn family, who owned Hever Castle in Kent between 1462 and 1538.

"Thomas Boleyn is Prince William and Kate's 14th generation grandfather. They are descended from Mary Boleyn's side of the family.

"Mary Boleyn's daughter, Catherine Carey, married Francis Knollys. Their daughter Elizabeth had important connections: not only was Anne Boleyn her great-aunt, but she was a cousin once removed and Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth I.

"In 1578 Elizabeth Knollys married Thomas Leighton, a diplomat and soldier, and together the couple had three children – a son Thomas, and daughters Elizabeth and Anne.

"It is from Elizabeth Leighton's side that Kate descends, while William's ancestor is her sister Anne."

Hever Castle

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FOR many, the memories of your big day are best captured by the photographs. Reminders forever of how you started out on your journey together, and the memorable occasion it was.

But there are wedding photographs, and there are wedding photographs – the trick is to get ones that capture the very essence of the occasion, the sense of joy and fun which surrounds it.

So just how is best to achieve that? Tim Stubbings is a professional, fully-qualified, wedding photographer and over the years ensures that every couple are delighted with the outcome. We put some readers' questions to him to find out just what was the secret to a set of photographs to make sure they are picture-perfect.

Q Every wedding is different, so how do you ensure your day is captured in a way that suits you and your personalities?

A Everyone has an ego - some are big and some are not so big - but whatever our personality might be, we all have a view on how things should be done.

When someone designs a wedding dress, you employ their services because of their style and approach, but as the paying customer you still have the right to have input into the creative process. You're not a dress designer or maker yourself, but your contribution is critical to the success of the final product.

Your photographer should be like this – short-listed by you because of their style, booked by you because of their approach, personality and attitude, and successfully used by you because you were able to work in partnership with them. It's still your wedding. The pictures should

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reflect your personalities but with the signature of the photographer. Photography is as much about people as it is cameras, listening more than talking and watching more than being the centre of attention.

Q How important is it for a wedding photographer to have a good relationship with the bride and groom before the big day?

A The ability to get on with everyone – not just the bride and groom – is key to being successful in a people-facing business like photography. Without wishing to put myself out of a job, I would go further and say that it's even more important than technical ability or creative flair, which should be a given.

The stronger the working relationship and greater the rapport, the more likely it is that great pictures will be taken because it won't feel like hard work. It's a bit like a conversation – you want it to flow and be stimulating, two-way and interesting, not stilted, awkward or uncomfortable. Photographers must be good at making people feel at ease, quickly.

I've found myself standing in for a best man, picking up the flowers from the florist, and helping a guest cut the labels off his new suit! Your photographer needs to engage with people. You'll be happier and more relaxed knowing that you can trust your photographer to get the best out of you and your friends and family. Let's not forget that it should be fun too and it's easier to have fun around people you like.

Q We have a lot of photos of various groups and couples that we would like to capture on our wedding day. However, I am really worried that our guests will get bored with all the waiting around. Between us and our photographer, how can we ensure the photos are taken quickly?

A Although there's been a move away from lots of group pictures in recent years, it doesn't mean that they can't happen both quickly and in a way that doesn't impact you or your guests negatively.

The three parts of the group shots system I use are:

Ensure your guests have something else to do whilst the pictures are being taken. Most people don't notice the photography when they're given a glass or two and something to nibble on!

Agree in advance that a member or two of your wedding party – not necessarily the best man – will help the photographer get people together. They need to know at least one side of the family by sight.

Separate the area for formal group photography from the rest of the party – but not so far that time is wasted ferrying people over a great distance. Groups don't have to be formal – so have some smaller friends' groups and couple shots later in the evening.

Your photographer will work through your schedule before the wedding and identify any issues arising. For larger weddings it might be necessary to have an assistant or second photographer for a few hours on the day to help with the groups or to be shooting candid/documentary images at the same time.

Q Our photographer has asked that someone be available to help organise our guests for the photos. I feel a little put out by this, but my friend has said it is quite normal. What's your opinion?

A Your photographer is ultimately responsible for working with you to agree a shoot list of your day and then for keeping this on track as far as is possible (allowing for delays or events beyond anyone's control!).

With reportage (documentary) and candid (not posed) photography pretty much as standard now, a photographer working alone will normally and quite understandably ask for help from an usher or best man to help guests get into place for any group photos. Without such help the photographer would have to leave their position and go looking for people and there lies the danger for the photography to drag on too long. Normally there is a tight schedule for the groups and the photography itself is the fast bit – it's getting everyone together that takes the time, especially where there are 100-plus guests.

The posing of the groups – who stands where – is for the photographer to arrange. Enlisting help in marshalling and finding people is normally part of the usher's role and you'll be grateful that they did!

Q We really want to have plenty of our wedding photos taken outside, but as we are getting married in March, the notoriously windy time of year, I am concerned that I will get really blown about and look a total mess. Have you got any suggestions for how we can get great photos even in blowy conditions?

A The seasons are full of surprises – I've photographed in summer torrential rain and beautiful golden light in winter – but it need not stop you getting great pictures.

Meeting your photographer at your venue will uncover options to keep you outside but shielded from the wind, identifying several places for portraits and groups. By careful lighting and positioning the two of you slightly inside, you can 'bring the outside in'. Using open doors or large windows as backdrops can look wonderful. Ask your photographer what experience they have of low natural light or subtle artificial light (not simply a flash on top of the camera).

Don't worry if it's overcast. Cloudy skies create smooth, even lighting which is flattering for skin tones and close-ups.

Finally, how about turning the wind to your advantage and to creative effect? By combining a dramatic backdrop and a bride with her veil blowing behind her, shielded by the groom's body, you can create an intimate, exciting portrait.

- Tim Stubbings is one of Canon UK's preferred photographers and a qualified member of the BIPP. His main areas of work are wedding, lifestyle and commercial photography. He also trains photographers in camera skills, lighting and composition and is a guest lecturer at Canterbury Christchurch University.
  Website: www.timstubbings.co.uk
  Blog: www.timstubbingsphotography.com/blog

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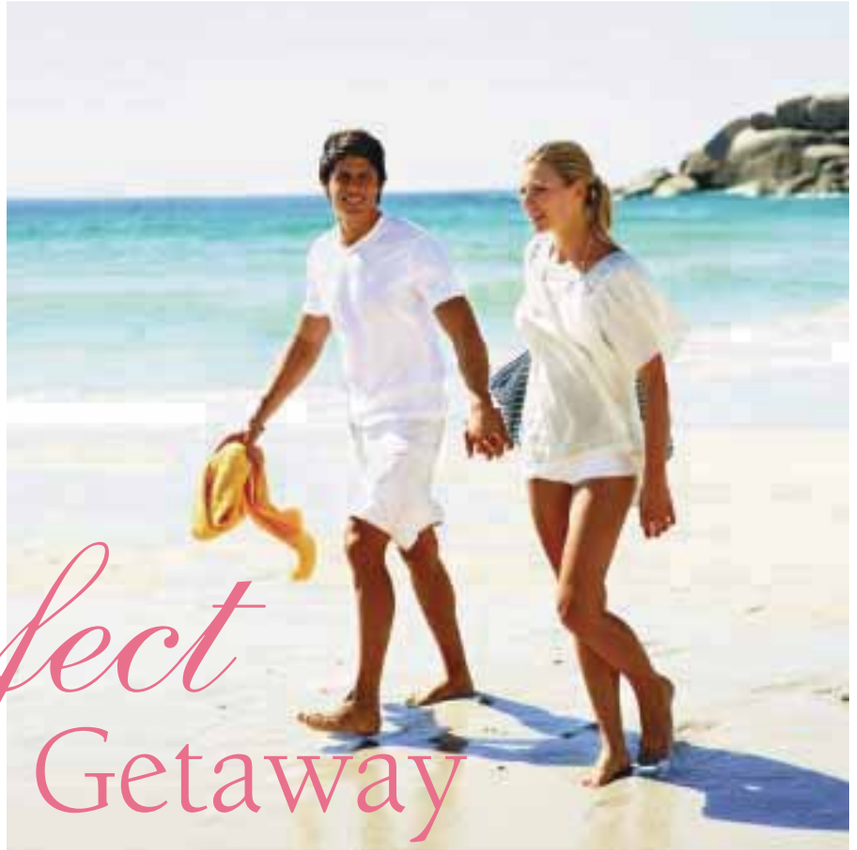
The Perfect Getaway



SELECTING your honeymoon can be almost as time-consuming as planning the big day itself – and as costly.

After all, you want your wedding to be followed up by a memorable holiday – a chance to unwind after months of tense preparations, and the opportunity to enjoy being man and wife for the first time.

So the question is just what do you go for? Do you push the boat out and go for a once-in-a-lifetime experience? Or perhaps simply opt for simplicity and romance to make it one to remember?

More and more couples are even tying the knot abroad with just close family and friends, and combining the two.

For some, an active holiday with a packed agenda – a real adventure discovering far-off lands and ancient civilisations – is the ideal way to mark such a momentous part of your life. For others, a romantic cruise or a lazy beach holiday fits the bill.

We take a look at a range of possible options for you – from the Salsa rhythms of Cuba to a more leisurely boat break in the Dordogne. There's something for every pocket and taste to inspire you…

1 The classic beach holiday – The Maldives

by Sam Wylie-Harris

With a wave of hotels opening in the Maldives and the introduction of all-inclusive options, paradise no longer comes with a whopping bill at the end of a luxurious seven-night stay.

Savvy holidaymakers can dip their toe in the Indian Ocean and soak up all the usual four-star trappings of an exclusive island resort and still have enough left over to plan a return trip.

Take the Kuramathi resort.

Fringed by lush vegetation and a snaking white sandbank, the resort was relaunched at the end of 2009 and now boasts 50 water villas each with private Jacuzzi, a large split-level sun deck and panoramic view over the lagoon's crystal-blue waters.

Waking up to this fairytale vista, it's not difficult to live out the barefoot dream of a sarong lifestyle for a week. After a 10-hour flight from London and 20-minute seaplane transfer across turquoise ring-shaped reefs, not even my designer sunglasses and wide-brimmed hat could shade me from the beauty of this tropical island.

Strolling through the ancient Banyan trees and lush vegetation, it's hard to believe there are 290 guest villas in all, some in total isolation and just a few steps from the white sandy beach.

Tranquil, with a total chill factor (if you want it) of sand, sea and surf, a dive centre, excursions, gym, spa with 16 treatment rooms, nine restaurants and six bars (including a posh Havana cigar bar), the resort offers a romantic holiday with loads of choice.

Every morning before breakfast, my partner and I climbed down the villa's stilts and snorkelled straight from our sundeck into the sea, to be welcomed by glittering parrot and trigger fish.

The huge infinity pool takes centre stage at the bottom tip of the 1.8km island, and the resort has a golf cart service to ferry guests around if you don't fancy the walk. Personally, I think it's far more intimate to take your partner's hand and discover some of Kuramathi's secrets - like the bird sanctuary nestled behind coconut palms.

Blissful days were spent lounging on our sun-drenched private deck. The only daily boardroom decision was where to go for our first pina colada.

In the evening, guests can enjoy a romantic candle-lit meal in the Island Barbecue. This is where we gorged on scallops, char-grilled yellow-fin tuna and wonderful steak. Definitely a five-star dining experience, we were spirited away to gourmet heaven every time we ate there.

Being helpless romantics, we treated ourselves to a "serenade dinner" one night. For a table for two at the end of the Serenade Jetty, the chef prepares a magnificent four-course meal with lobster, served by your own private waiter.

TRAVEL: Fact file

Sam Wylie-Harris was a guest of Kuoni, which offers seven nights all-inclusive in a garden villa on Kuramathi Island Resort from £1,327 in 2011, including SriLankan Airlines flights ex-Heathrow, transfers and use of Male airport lounge on return. Select all-inclusive (more dining options) starts at £1,647 per person. Kuoni reservations: 01306 747 008 and www.kuoni.co.uk.

2 Something a little different – Cuba

by Cordelia O'Neill

It's a sweltering evening and through the darkness, musicians drum an intoxicating Salsa rhythm.

Tall palm trees seemingly swing in time as I sip my glass of seven-year-old rum and prepare for a night to remember.

Suddenly the spotlight swings to the two stages, and a flock of girls - the so-called Diosas de Carne, Goddesses of the Flesh - descend from trees in time to the music.

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The music picks up, lights flash on glittering sequinned and feathered costumes, and the world-famous Club Tropicana kicks off another long Havana night.

Launched in 1939 at the Villa Mina, a sprawling six-acre estate on the outskirts of the city, this floor show inspired copycat cabaret in Paris, Las Vegas and New York, and has drawn countless tourists to Cuba's capital for nights of decadence, drama and daiquiris.

But the sequins and feathers hide a darker side of the club, whose history is almost inseparable from the Cuba of the popular imagination - gangsters, gambling and gunshots.

The past is rarely far away on this Caribbean island, which won independence from Spain in 1902.

Apart from the near-constant presence of its revolutionary heroes - Fidel Castro and more photogenic Che Guevara - the island's chequered history is etched into its heart.

Very little is new in Cuba - from Spanish colonial-style town houses (some undergoing restoration, but more falling down stone by stone), to the classic American cars - Chevrolets, Buicks and Cadillacs.

One of the best places to view this irrepressible capital is from the top of the 137-metre-high memorial to the island's most honoured patriot, Jose Marti.

A slow lift takes you to the top of the obelisk, topped with a statue of the poet, journalist and leader of the 1895 rebellion against Spanish rule.

Having paid my respects, I decide to worship the local culture in a slightly less worthy way, and slip into my gold bikini, don a pair of oversized Sophia Loren-style sunglasses and make for the roof-top pool of my hotel - the neo-classical Saratoga.

With the sun beating down and a cocktail in my hand, I have a 270-degree panorama of the city taking in the Capitolio Nacional - a 1929 copy of the Capitol building in Washington - the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Habana Vieja district by the harbour, and the sprawling Centro Habana.

Cuba's Capitolio Nacional

While Western capitalism is firmly resisted, economic necessity and Raoul Castro's modernising reforms ensure Cuba welcomes tourists with open arms - particularly since the collapse of the USSR sank demand for its sugar crop.

Former plantations are slowly being converted into expansive tourist resorts along a shimmering coastline.

A total absence of billboards takes some getting used to. The only advertising allowed by the government tells citizens of their luck in living under progressive economic policies.

In Cuba, a sea-change is coming, albeit slowly. Since Fidel Castro handed over to his brother in 2006, the island has opened itself to the West, and President Obama's election could end the ban on visitors from the US.

Enjoy this crazy, contradictory country before too many Americans arrive.

TRAVEL: Fact file

Cordelia O'Neill was a guest of Thomson Holidays (0871 2315595 and thomson.co.uk), which offers twin-centre 11-night stays on the resort of Guardalavaca and Havana from £1,876, including return flights with Thomson Airways (flying from Gatwick). Internal flights by Air Cubana.

3 Something a bit different – Iceland

by Danielle Dwyer

As I peered out of the window as we began our descent into Keflavik Airport, just west of Reykjavik, I had felt as though I was gazing down at the pages of a geography textbook.

A massive expanse of lunar-looking terrain greets visitors as they touch down in Iceland, setting the scene for a country where the landscape is as dramatic as it is varied.

Over the course of our trip we took in spectacular glaciers, a bubbling volcano, tumbling waterfalls and rolling fields. The landscape is striking, albeit curious and bleak in places.

It is impossible to forget that Iceland - nicknamed the land of fire and ice - is a country of extremes.

Earlier this year, that became a harsh reality for millions of holidaymakers as flights across Europe were grounded when Eyjafjallajokull erupted and an ash cloud lingered in the skies for weeks.

A stunning Icelandic waterfall

Yet sitting in the grounds of the Hotel Ranga with a steaming mug of hot chocolate in my hands and the now infamous volcano just a short drive away, it was easy to forget the disruption and see only the startling beauty of a country so diverse and dramatic.

Guests braver than me stripped to their bikinis and lazed around in outdoor hot tubs, enjoying the spectacular view - Mount Hekla stands proud on the horizon - and the surprisingly mild climate.

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We were pausing for a mid-afternoon break, having spent the morning driving along Iceland's stunning south coast, visiting waterfalls at Seljalandsfoss and Skogarfoss - just two of hundreds in the country.

Volcano enthusiasts can drive to Eyjafjallajokull from Reykjavik along Route 1 - a journey of roughly 70 miles. It is also possible to fly over the volcano as we did, an experience well worth an afternoon if weather conditions permit.

But there is so much more to Iceland than lava and ash.

It is an over-used cliche that every cloud has a silver lining, but the people of Iceland hope the old adage holds true.

Our guide told us Icelanders are confident the eruption, which caused little disruption in Iceland, will put them on the map, so to speak.

Besides the volcanoes and waterfalls, a trip snowmobiling on one of the country's glaciers is an absolute must. Tour-providers run day-trips from the capital.

Admiring the view of snow-capped mountains and the seemingly endless pristine-white glacier, and taking in the complete silence, it was hard to believe I had travelled just one hour by air from London.

In the summer months, 24 hours of daylight lend themselves to long nights partying in the capital's many pubs and bars. Younger inhabitants take up the challenge with gusto.

By day, the city's atmosphere is casual and relaxed, with a dress code to match. By night, the stilettos come out and the bar crawls commence, lasting into and beyond the early hours.

But Reykjavik has more to offer than its vibrant nightlife.

In the daytime it is pretty and peaceful, with just enough bustle to create an atmosphere. The capital is small enough to explore by foot, and wherever you are in the city, you are never far from a decent coffee and a spot to sit down and people-watch.

The Jokulsarlon iceberg lagoon, on the south side of Vatnajokull, is a must-see.

The lagoon is a sprawling lake of glacial meltwater into which huge icebergs have floated, having broken away from the glacier.

TRAVEL: Fact file

Danielle Dwyer was a guest of Discover The World, which offers six-night self-drive holidays in Iceland year-round from £808 per person (April and October).

The Arctic Edge package includes Icelandair flights ex-Heathrow, B&B hotel accommodation, including the luxury Hotel Ranga, car rental (unlimited mileage basis and semi-comprehensive insurance). Reservations: 01737 218 800 and www.discover-the-world.co.uk.

4 Boat-tastic

by Tim Ware

In France, a boating holiday is much more than simply a holiday on a boat. It's a chance not only to cruise past splendid scenery, wonder at historic towns and enjoy decent food and wine, but explore rarely- frequented French nooks.

Joining my group in Douelle, a typical Lot village nestling beneath limestone cliffs just beyond the Dordogne, we're set for seven nights in the Nautila and have 76km of river stretching before us.

Settling into our four-cabined houseboat, we're quickly introduced to the warmer, less well-known countryside of the River Lot.

Perhaps a little like the Dordogne of three decades ago, it remains a part of France where time seems to have stood still, with picturesque villages and air as pure as the intoxicating red wine produced in the area.

The Lot is France's seventh-longest river, and chugging through the water at a stately pace we form an intimate relationship with her virtues and foibles.

Summer in the Lot offers a better-than-average chance of good weather - and we are in luck. For the best part of the week, the sun shines almost incessantly from a near-cloudless sky.

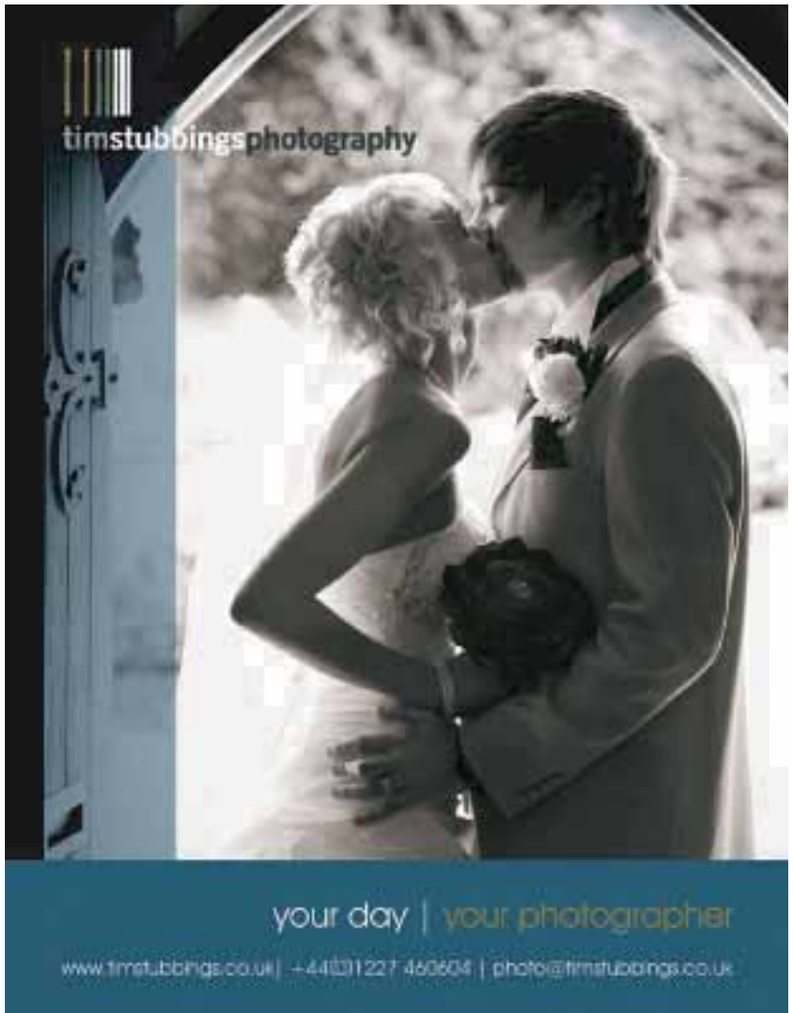
The great pleasure of the much-meandering Lot is its variety. With each bend a different view is revealed: a hill-top ruin here, a tiny port there and acres of vineyards of, predominantly, the Malbec grapes for velvety Cahors wine.

Another advantage of this mode of transport is being able to stop where the mood dictates. You carry no schedule or latent concerns about finding a hotel room for the night. Your bed travels with you.

A picturesque Dordogne bridge

River-cruising has come a long way since days of damp post-war family boating holidays on the Broads. Modern boats are comfortable, well furnished and equipped (the most important item is probably a decent corkscrew).

With autumn approaching, an early-morning mist hangs over the water like a damp blanket.



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Our routine is always the same. As the sun breaks through, one of the group is deputised to find a boulangerie for fresh rolls and croissants.

Over breakfast on deck we plan the day: how far we're going to travel, how many locks we have to negotiate and, of course, this being France, where to stop for lunch.

A place with instant appeal is Cahors, where the river seems to go back on itself, as if it's forgotten something, leaving the town imprisoned in a tight bend.

This impressive town, the capital of the old province of Quercy, is really two places in one. From the river, the first thing to greet you is the splendid Pont Valentre, whose sturdy towers once guarded the west entrance to the town.

But, after a week on the water, what becomes etched in the memory is not the stunning scenery and towns like Cahors with its secret gardens, memorable though they are. It's the sheer joy of discovering a part of France that is still, surprisingly, something of a closed book to many Francophiles.

TRAVEL: Fact file

Tim Ware travelled along the Lot with Hoseasons Holidays, which offers seven nights' self-catering on a boat sleeping eight from £1,355, excluding travel costs. The operator also fixes flights into Toulouse/Bordeaux, or Eurotunnel crossings for 500-mile drive to the Lot.

Hoseasons reservations: 0844 847 1170 and www.hoseasons.co.uk.

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HOSE attending a wedding fayre next month have the chance to get a remarkable £2,000 off a dream honeymoon.

The Quex Spring Wedding Fayre, at Quex Park in Birchington, promises to be an inspiring event for all brides-to-be, with an eclectic range of more than 40 exhibitors taking part.

On show will be everything from cakes, dresses, jewellery, photography and a range of wedding cars.

What's more, those attending will be able to absorb the atmosphere and beauty of one of the finest locations to stage a wedding in Kent.

Major Powell-Cotton, owner of Quex Park, married Hannah Brayton Slater in Nairobi. Now, the Hannah Dining Suite at Quex Park offers brides and grooms the opportunity to enjoy the same experience of a wedding in Kent, surrounded by the memories of Africa.

Situated in the middle of the beautiful Quex Park, the Hannah Dining Suite provides a unique wedding experience in a stunning setting in historic surrounds and with extensive gardens.

Dedicated wedding consultants will be on hand to advise on how to make the venue ideal for your special occasion.

And the highlight of the day will be a grand prize draw offering brides and grooms the opportunity to win £2,000 off the cost of their honeymoon.

In addition, there will be £200 gift vouchers for everyone who registers on the day – they can be redeemed on the day when you book a wedding either at the fayre itself, or by making an appointment to book a viewing of Quex Park's wedding venue on a future date.

The prize is sponsored by both Quex Park and Trailblazer Travel, of Herne Bay. Terms and conditions apply.

There is also a very special wedding offer for the readers of this newspaper.

The offer is a superb meal for two at a restaurant in Kent or a helicopter flight to view Quex Park. For details, see the full-page advert on page 13.

Entry to the fayre is free to all on Sunday, March 6, whether planning a wedding or not. It runs from 11am to 4pm.

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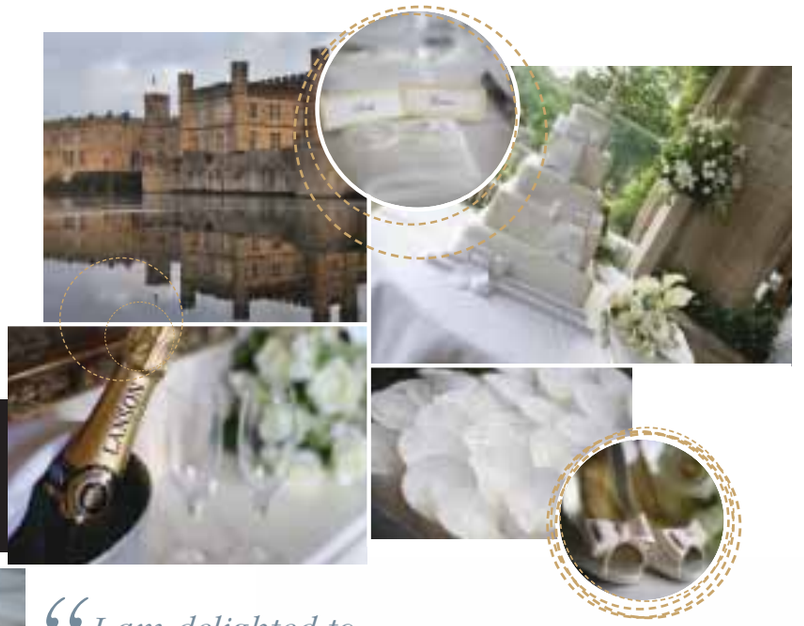

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The Catwalk

There are four magical and inspirational catwalk shows on each of the two days with wondrous collections of exquisite bridal designs, couture, ladies fashions, lingerie, swimwear, and men's attire.

On both days TV celebrity Claire Sweeney will be hosting two fabulous catwalk shows.

The shows are co-ordinated and professionally choreographed creating the 'wow factor'.

"I am delighted to be hosting Kent's Premier Wedding show and look forward to meeting you there"

Claire Sweeney

Photograph by Karl Grant, Camera Press London

HOSTED BY TV CELEBRITY CLAIRE SWEENEY

For exhibitor information contact Liz Hare on 01303 817172 or email liz.hare@kosmedia.co.uk

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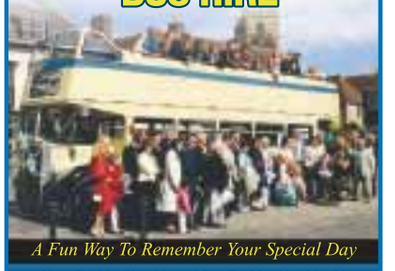

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